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Brunei's Bolkiah marries Malaysian ex-newscaster

Young pro-GMA solons tutored on impeachment

LIBRE? LIBRE DIN PANGUNGULIT!

By Gerry Lirio

THERE'S no such thing as a free lunch.

Young members of the House of Representatives whose families and parties support President

YOUNG/ A6

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Don't just dismiss resign calls, bishop told GMA

By Christian V. Esguerra

TAKE into account demands for your resignation.

President Macapagal-Arroyo got this piece of unsolicited advice from Jaro Archbishop Angel Lagdameo during their closed-door meeting at the Catholic Bishops Conference

DON'T/ A22

Monday, August 22, 2005 ★★ 68 pages / 6 sections / Vol. 20 / No. 255 P18

website: w

Joker: Unity talks plain politicking

OUSTED President Joseph Estrada preaches forgiveness before the El Shaddai crowd at Luneta. RYAN LIM

Another GMA ploy, say 2 former allies

By TJ Burgonio, Edson C. Tandoc Jr. and Christine O. Avendaño

MAVERICK administration Sen. Joker Arroyo yesterday dismissed talks of reconciliation between President Macapagal-Arroyo and indicted former President Joseph Estrada, saying these would not prosper because of legal roadblocks.

"So all these talks about reconciliation and bail on recognizance are plain and simple politicking," the senator said.

Two former allies of the President—Corazon "Dinky" Soliman and Florencio Abad—also consider the reconciliation talks just another political ploy of Ms Arroyo, who is facing impeachment and calls that she resign because of allegations that she cheated in the 2004 presidential election.

Environment Secretary Michael Defensor had disclosed that reconciliation talks between the Arroyo and Estrada camps had begun, with Estrada seeking his release from house arrest in Tanay, Rizal, on recognizance as a condition.

Recognizance involves the release of an accused without bail to someone of high moral standing in the community.

Estrada, who was impeached in 2000 and ousted in January 2001 by a popular revolt, confirmed talking to Defensor about his possi-

JOKER/ A22

Bro. Mike still hopeful on reconciliation

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Volt Contreras

THE HANDSHAKE on center stage between President Macapagal-Arroyo and deposed President Joseph Estrada did not take place at the El Shaddai rally, but Ms Arroyo remains keen about seeking reconciliation with her predecessor.

"Brother Mike is reiterating his call for reconciliation. As President, and thanks to Brother Mike for his support, I am ready to take steps to call on my rivals, 'Let us be united so that politics will not ruin our country,'" said the President in a speech after the birthday Mass for Bro. Mike Velarde at the Quirino Grandstand in Manila on Saturday night.

Although he was disappointed by the decision of the Arroyo and Estrada camps not to push through with the meeting on stage, the El Shaddai leader remained optimistic that his peace-brokering efforts would eventually bear fruit.

"We will let them meet together again, very soon. Let us pray that we will come back here in Luneta, especially for that (reconciliation) only," Velarde told reporters shortly after escorting the President to her car.

Velarde initially denied he was disappointed about the meeting that did not take place, but when pressed, he said: "I would have been happier if the reconciliation happened this day. Our country's problems would have been solved, and my problem would have been over."

Despite the kinks in the reconciliation talks, Velarde said discussions between the Arroyo and Estrada camps would continue.

Although no specific formula had been discussed on how to achieve reconciliation, Ve-

BROTHER MIKE/ A22

SO CLOSE yet so far from reconciling political differences are President Macapagal-Arroyo and former President Corazon Aquino during Mass on the occasion of the 22nd death anniversary of opposition leader Benigno Aquino Jr. at the Manila Memorial Park in Parañaque. ERIK ARAZAS

Mass for Ninoy reunites Gloria, political foes

By Fe Zamora and Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

THEY kissed, but they didn't make up.

In fact, former Social Welfare Secretary Corazon "Dinky" Soliman stressed that she bussed her former boss, President Macapagal-Arroyo, yesterday because "she greeted me and I was near her."

In fact, later in the afternoon, Soliman joined the launch of the "Black and White Movement." The new group promises to unite the so-called middle forces to push demands that Ms Arroyo resign over allegations she rigged last year's election. *(See story on Page A2.)*

Soliman said Ms Arroyo should seriously consider quitting now because there was a "big chance" she would be convicted if impeachment moves proceeded against her.

The Chief Executive turned up for the Mass commemorating the 22nd death anniversary of opposition leader Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr., a gathering led by ex-President Corazon Aquino and former Arroyo stalwarts who had defected and called on her to resign.

Benigno Aquino was gunned down moments after he stepped off a plane on his return from self-exile in the United States to rally the opposition against the dictator Ferdinand Marcos. Sixteen soldiers were convicted of murdering the opposition leader and were sentenced to life in prison.

MASS/ A6

Pressures on RP democracy

By Amando Doronila

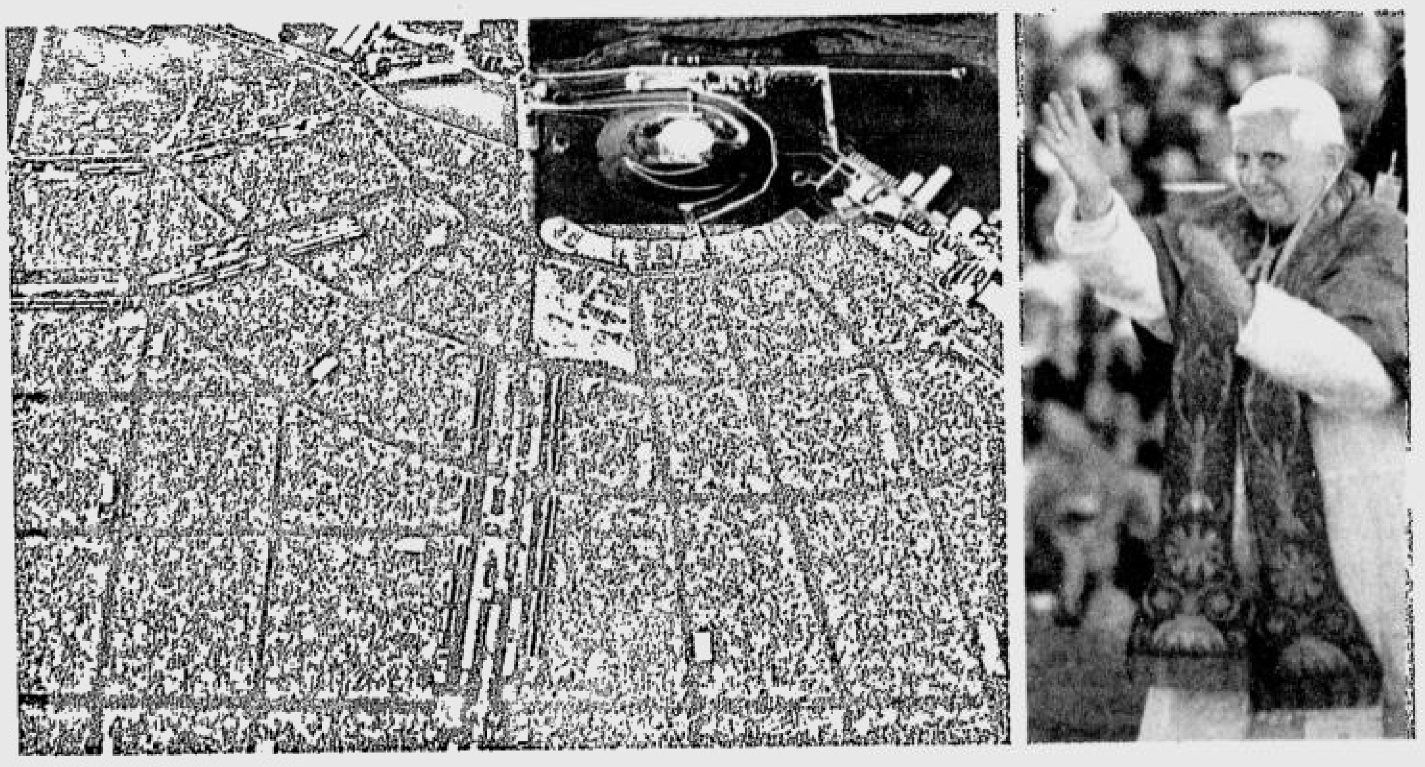
ANALYSIS

THE POST-MARCOS Constitution has been in place for only 18 years. Despite the Constitution's relatively short period of existence, a serious initiative has been launched to revise the Charter in the State of the Nation Address of President Macapagal-Arroyo on July 25 when she called for the start of the "great debate" on a "fundamental change" of the system involving a shift to the parliamentary system within a federal structure.

The 1973 Constitution that underpinned the Marcos dictatorship lasted for only 14 years. Prior to this shift to the authoritarian system, the essentially democratic 1935 Constitution had a longer life—38 years.

Without going into examining the

PRESSURES/ A22



PAPAL ENCOUNTER

From the cloud-shaped altar, Pope Benedict XVI (right) greets the multitude of young pilgrims who came to spend a World Youth Day vigil with him at Marienfeld near Cologne, Germany. *(Story in The World, Page A8.)* AFP/AP

Witnesses' lives take full turn

By Christian V. Esguerra

THEIR lives did a 180-degree turn when Wilfredo "Boy" Mayor and Sandra Cam came out with their "jueteng" exposés.

When he was a top gambling lord in Bicol not too long ago, Mayor was raking in as much as P2.5 million in jueteng collections even during the "lean months."

He could send his wife and all of her *kumare* (friends) to Hong Kong. He, too, would fly there just to dine with a friend, then fly back to Manila the same day.

When they were bored in their home province Albay, the Mayors would fly to Manila. One time, he and his family drove to Manila in a three-car convoy and went on a

WITNESSES'/ A4

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Eastern Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms mostly in the afternoon or evening.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY ERIKA A. SARMIENTO, PDI RESEARCH/08/22/05

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Second FRONT PAGE

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Cha-cha panel to begin work

By Christine O. Avendaño

MALACAÑANG yesterday grabbed the initiative in the Charter change saga, announcing that a 50-member consultative commission tasked to gather proposed amendments would start work next month and finish the job by year's end.

The report of the consultative commission, to be composed of the "best and brightest minds," will be submitted to President Macapagal-Arroyo, according to the Palace. An advisory body will in turn submit an executive branch position in early January for Congress' scrutiny.

"Congress will have the final say (on the amendments)," Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said.

Malacañang moved to take Charter change out of the doldrums as a Palace official said that El Shaddai leader Mike Velarde was drafting a covenant to be offered for adoption by all political parties—those identified with the Arroyo administration as well as those in the "divergent opposition."

The official, who declined to be identified, said the proposed covenant would seek to bind the political parties under common goals in the face of the oil crisis and widespread poverty.

He added that the effort to amend the Constitution would serve as the parties' unifying factor. "And the Charter change (bid) could be a possible instrument or means for a coalition government," the Palace official said.

As if on cue, Ermita gave a rare Sunday press briefing yesterday, announcing to reporters the issuance of Executive Order No. 453 which directs the creation of a consultative commission to propose amendments and revisions to the 1987 Constitution.

The executive order provides that President Arroyo will appoint the 50 members of the commission, which will consult with various sectors on changes to be made to the 18-year-old Constitution.

The Palace proposed that the nominations be submitted to the Office of the President before Aug. 31.

Ermita said the "well-selected" members of the commission were to represent the national, regional and sectoral constituencies.

"We hope by Sept. 15 this particular commission can start working," said Ermita, named chair of the organizing committee for the commission. "And the deadline given is for them to submit their finished product to the President by about the end of the year, Dec. 31."

He said former University of the Philippines president Jose Abueva, whom President Arroyo earlier announced would be a member of the body, had submitted his own nominations. A committee under the Office of the President would make the recommendations to the President, he added.

Presidential Management Staff chief Rigoberto Tiglao, who will head the secretariat of the body, asked that nominations be sent to the website concom@pms.gov.ph.

"The Constitution is the most important document in the republic... and it's important that we intend through this commission to get the best and the brightest minds to really study the Constitution with a fine-tooth comb," Tiglao said.

Under the EO, a person is qualified to be a member of the commission if he is a Filipino citizen, a qualified voter, of recognized probity, competence, honesty and patriotism." Serving public officials are prohibited from being members of the body.

The Palace has allotted P10 million to bankroll the commission's work, which includes conducting nationwide consultations and public hearings with various sectors, according to the PMS chief.

Ermita said the commission would have a "free hand" in determining the scope of topics to be considered, but added that members would be tackling economic, political and social provisions.

Definitely, he said, the commission would tackle proposals on the mode of changing the Constitution (whether through a constituent assembly or a constitutional convention) and the form of government.

In her State of the Nation Address in July, President Arroyo called for a constituent assembly to tackle the amendments and for a parliamentary-federal form of government to replace the current presidential system of government.:

New anti-GMA coalition formed

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

A NEW coalition called Black and White Movement has been formed to press for the ouster of President Macapagal-Arroyo who is facing impeachment in Congress for allegedly cheating her way to the presidency.

The Black and White Movement, which includes members of the so-called Hyatt 10, yesterday vowed to unite the middle forces—the same groups that helped to bring down the Estrada administration and catapulted Ms Arroyo to power in 2001.

The coalition noted that Ms Arroyo was still clinging to power despite the scandals hounding her administration because many groups that want her out of Malacañang refuse to be associated with groups supporting jailed former President Joseph Estrada.

The coalition hopes to provide yet another group for the anti-GMA movement, which its leaders say remain fragmented and weak.

"For the middle forces who were involved in Edsa I and II, coming out to the streets means being side by side with (Estrada) and Marcos forces—an idea they find unacceptable," the coalition said in an instruction sheet for the workshops it organized yesterday.

Former Social Welfare Secretary Dinky Soliman and former Education Secretary Florencio Abad, two of the 10 Cabinet officials who turned their backs on Ms Arroyo and joined calls for her to resign last month, joined the more than a 100 people mostly wearing black or white shirts who attended the program in Mandaluyong City.

"Those who showed up in Edsa I and Edsa II are reluctant to come out now. They are confused and do not know which group to support," founding member Enteng Romano told the INQUIRER.

The coalition is looking at three options to get Ms Arroyo out of her office: Resignation, impeachment and ouster.

In a statement, the coalition said Ms Arroyo cheated in the last election, citing the "Hello Garci" wiretapped conversations as proof, aside from the political developments and revelations the tape spawned.

"We believe that cheating is a moral issue, where there are no shades of gray. There is only black and white," the coalition said in a statement, explaining its official colors and name.

Students, the urban poor and wealthy personalities participated during the hour-long small-group discussions, where each shared what he or she believed to be the best option for Ms Arroyo.

Construction worker Rene Molina, 52, said the best option was impeachment.

"Members of the urban poor have grown tired of joining rallies. Since Ms Arroyo had said she would not resign, we should turn to a constitutional option, which is impeachment," Molina said in Filipino.

Housewife Estelita Zamora, 59, said Ms Arroyo should voluntarily step down and be given "a graceful exit."

TAX VADE
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GLORIA · NOLI
STEP DOWN

PROTEST AND REMEMBRANCE

Members of Gloria Step-Down Movement-Youth demand the resignation of President Macapagal-Arroyo and Vice President Noli de Castro even as they honor the memory of the late Sen. Benigno Aquino Jr. at his monument on Ayala Ave. yesterday, the 22nd anniversary of the latter's assassination.

ERIK ARAZAS

Ninoy holiday up to schools

MALACAÑANG has left it to the school authorities to decide whether to suspend classes or not today in observance of the 22nd death anniversary of the late Sen. Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita yesterday issued a proclamation giving authorities in both public and private schools the discretion to call for a "school holiday" today.

"(The school holiday is for) those who would want to give meaning to the martyrdom of Senator Aquino and to give the youth the chance to observe it," Ermita told reporters in Malacañang.

President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday hailed Aquino as a "martyr for national unity" and called on the nation not to forget his "profound sacrifice."

"Let us revere his memory and live by his ideals," said Ms Arroyo, who attended yesterday's Mass marking Aquino's death.

Aquino, a nemesis of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, was gunned down on Aug. 21, 1983, upon his return home from the United States where he had gone on exile. His murder has not been solved to this day.

In a statement, the President took the opportunity to call for national unity at a time her administration is reeling from the worst political crisis in its four-year existence.

She said the late senator returned to the country in 1983 "to bring all Filipinos together behind one nation and one destiny."

"He had a vision for the Philippines that cast down dictatorship and plunder, and elevated democracy and social justice to a high pedestal," Ms Arroyo said.

Aquino likewise had a "vision that galvanized ordinary people to do great things at a time when they lived in fear and want," the President said.

"Today, we yearn for the same spiritual and moral upliftment, the same strength and courage he brought home to the land," Ms Arroyo said.

Christine O. Avendaño

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Majority lawmakers seek end to impeach debates

By Michael Lim Ubac

WARY of the public's growing impatience, administration lawmakers yesterday called for an end to the debates over procedural issues which had marred the impeachment proceedings against President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Representatives Marcelino Libanan, Aurelio Umali and Eduardo Zialcita urged their colleagues in the House justice committee to finish the debates over constitutional or "prejudicial" questions so the committee could finally determine if the impeachment complaint is sufficient in form and substance.

Libanan, Umali and Zialcita, all Malacañang allies, are members of the justice committee.

They called on the justice committee to get on with its task of determining if the impeachment complaint should be allowed to prosper and reach the Senate for trial.

The opposition led by House Minority Leader Francis Escudero had accused the majority in the chamber of trying to kill the impeachment process by throwing all sorts of legal roadblocks to prevent Ms Arroyo's ouster.

Ms Arroyo stands accused of committing impeachable offenses, including cheating her way to victory in the 2004 elections.

"I hope the justice committee would wind up debates over which of the two issues should be tackled foremost by the panel since the airing of the respective position of its members is almost completed," said Libanan, one of the committee vice chairs.

Two thorny issues have stalled deliberations at the committee level: Whether the committee should first resolve the prejudicial questions—such as whether the three impeachment complaints should be treated separately or incorporated into one and whether it should go directly to the determination of form and substance of the complaints.

Both issues will be put to a vote on Tuesday.

Libanan said a resolution of the two issues would pave the way for smooth discussions on the impeachment complaint based on the rules of procedure.

"We believe that once we hurdle the two contentious issues, we will proceed smoothly," he said.

Libanan noted that committee chair Simeon Datumanong had been fair enough in allowing committee members and the complainants to declare their respective positions over prejudicial questions and the form and substance of the impeachment complaint.

"We call on everyone to transcend partisanship and use their sense of discernment and impartiality in acting on the impeachment matter," he said.

Umali said the justice committee was "duty-bound" to submit its report to the plenary within 60 days. The impeachment case was referred to the panel on July 25.

"We should therefore act judiciously and expeditiously on the case," said Umali, noting that the impeachment process was both "political and judicial."

He said the Supreme Court's ruling on the Francisco case, which dealt with the failed impeachment proceedings against Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr., had caused the amendment of the impeachment rules of the 11th Congress.

Jarque comes home as AFP begins reforms

By Nikko Dizon

UNDER the intense heat of the midday sun, the family of former Army Capt. Rene Jarque yesterday painfully welcomed him home for the last time.

His mother, Xenia, sobbed out her pain while his father, Raymundo, a retired military general, held her tightly as the crated casket containing Jarque's remains was wheeled out by a forklift in the cargo area of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia).

Moments later, Army Scout Rangers loaded the wooden box into a black hearse.

Jarque's young wife, Gay, held back her tears.

Military maverick Jarque, whose fiery convictions earned him both respect and controversy, died after suffering cardiac arrest in Jakarta, Indonesia, on Friday. He was 40.

His wife said the wake would be held at the Santuario de San Antonio in Forbes Park, Makati City. Interment is tentatively set for Saturday at the Libingan ng mga Bayani.

Without saying it directly, the Armed Forces yesterday acknowledged Jarque's crusade against "conversion," one of the biggest sources of corruption in the military.

Huge strides had been taken during the past few years to stop the practice. Chief of these was to consolidate the numerous bids and awards committees of the AFP into just two bodies, according to Lt. Col. Buenaventura Pascual, the military spokesperson.

"There used to be around 119 committees AFP-wide," Pascual said. "(By having just two committees) we could easily monitor them. We can ensure that there would be no collusion (between suppliers and military officers)."

Without mentioning Jarque or his crusade, the official admitted "conversion" had hounded the AFP. But reforms have been put in place, he said. (*See related story on Page A7.*)

Shortly before the casket was brought out, Gay told the INQUIRER she would preserve her husband's articles—mostly biting criticisms of the Armed Forces—and share them with others as he had when he was alive.

"I'll keep them. Yeah, I will lend them. That's what he was doing. He would reproduce his work and give it to everybody," Gay said.

She admitted her fear and apprehension whenever her husband came out with exposés and criticisms against the AFP.

"I wasn't against his coming out (in interviews). But I was afraid *kasi marami siyang nasasagasaan na tao. Medyo palaban kasi* (because he was hitting many people. He was a fighter). And I hope *maintindihan siya ngayon ng mga taong yun* (those people would understand him now)," she said.

Jarque, a West Point graduate who resigned from the military in 1998 out of disillusionment, had been working in Jakarta since last year.

Gay said she was told her husband had a mild stroke while at his house on Friday. Struggling, he caught his driver's attention by making noises in his room.

He died in the hospital, Gay said.

The Jarques have three children aged 10, 7 and 5.

Jarque had told the INQUIRER that during his 12 years of service, he had witnessed senior officers converting procurements into cash for personal use.

Pascual said the AFP leadership had directed key finance officers in the military to report directly to the chief of staff.

Quoting retired AFP chief of staff Efren Abu, Pascual said this way the highest officer became responsible for corruption in the military. *With Luige A. del Puerto*

Zambo bombing suspects freed

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Three alleged members of the Abu Sayyaf arrested in connection with bomb attacks in this city have been freed on bail of P320,000, police said Sunday.

"Those responsible for the bombings are free on bail," regional police head Chief Supt. Prospero Noble told dzBB radio.

The suspects—Adzmar Abduraup, Angon Asmarin Alahain, and Ibnoyatiem Salapuddin Samier—were charged with attempted murder for two bombs that ripped through a parked vehicle and a hotel in this city on Aug. 10. Twenty people were wounded.

The families of the three men, however, condemned the arrest and accused authorities of torturing them into admitting the attacks.

AFP

Garcillano in US, Pimentel claims

By TJ Burgonio

THE WHEREABOUTS of former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano remain a mystery but the latest speculation is that he had fled to the United States.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. yesterday said he had information Garcillano was in the United States and "is now staying in the house of his daughter in New Jersey."

According to Pimentel, his informants told him that Garcillano entered the US mainland more than a month after he slipped out of the country on July 14 via Singapore.

The opposition senator pressed the Department of Justice to coordinate with the US government to find Garcillano.

He said the DOJ could seek the help of US authorities in tracking down Garcillano on the basis of the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty.

"Under the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty, the Philippines may get US help to secure identified witnesses for the needs of the country," he said.

Pimentel pointed out that Garcillano was technically a fugitive from justice since the House of Representatives had issued a warrant for his arrest for snubbing its hearings on the "Hello Garci" tapes.

The warrant could be a ground for his repatriation, he said.

Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson earlier proposed the government tap Interpol and use its network of law enforcement agencies in foreign countries to track down Garcillano.

Garcillano, caught on tape supposedly plotting with President Macapagal-Arroyo to manipulate the 2004 elections, flew out of Manila for Singapore on July 14 and for another country the following day, foreign affairs officials confirmed last week.

The controversial election official disappeared from public view and kept a low profile since copies of his wiretapped conversations with the President, dubbed the "Hello Garci" tapes, surfaced in June.

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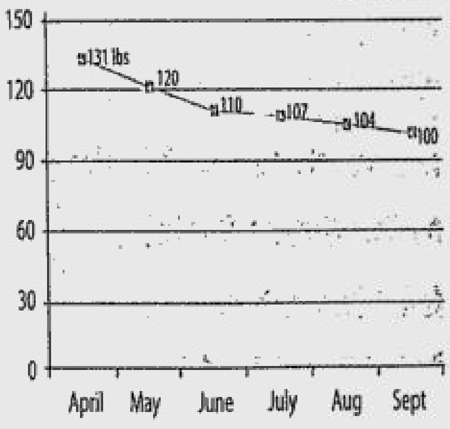

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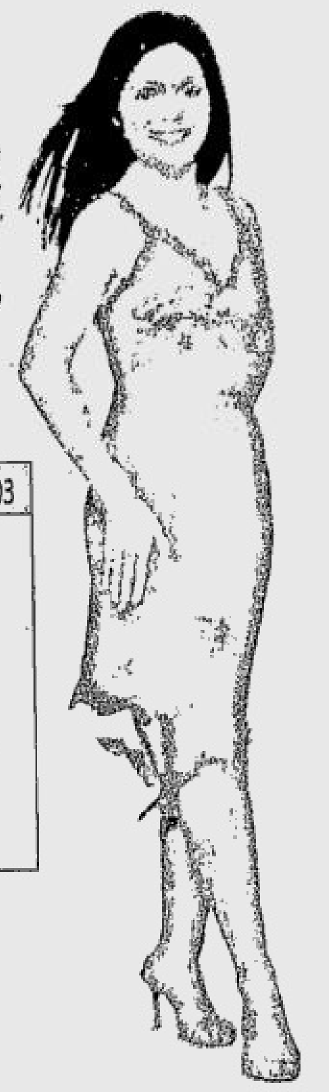

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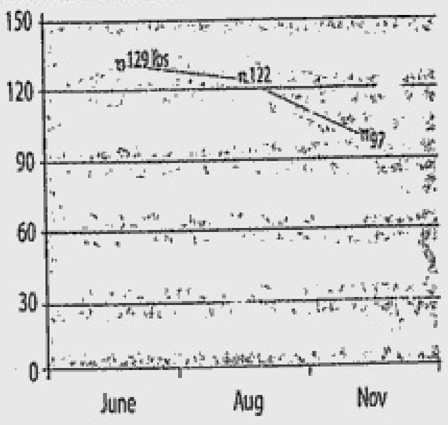

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Witnesses' lives take full turn

From page A1

half-million-peso shopping spree. His clutch bag always contained P100,000 in cash.

It was so easy to waste money he didn't earn, he said.

Now, three months after he surfaced and revealed everything he knew about the illegal numbers racket in his province, the former jueteng lord seems to have lost it all. Or has he?

Mayor is down to his last pair of white Lacoste sneakers. His wallet contains P1,000—if he's lucky. His cell phone is a cheap Nokia, its "load" courtesy of friends and some Roman Catholic bishops who have taken him under their wing.

"That's my life now—a 180-degree turn from my previous one," Mayor told the INQUIRER in an interview at the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) compound in Manila last Tuesday.

"Before, it's as if we were just scooping money and it seemed there was no end to it," said the 50-year-old Mayor. "But I realized that it's people who should command money, not money commanding people."

Indeed, the events of the last three months, which snowballed into one of the biggest scandals involving President Macapagal-Arroyo, have taught him many valuable lessons on faith, family and friendship.

The same holds true for fellow witness Sandra Cam, a confessed former jueteng bag lady entrenched in the dark side of local politics in the Visayas.

MAYOR

CAM

Closer to family

Mayor said he was much closer to his family now, although he hardly gets to see them since he testified before the Senate jueteng investigation in May. That's because he would be transferred from one safe house to another, courtesy of anti-gambling crusader Archbishop Oscar Cruz of Lingayen-Dagupan.

This taught Mayor to appreciate a short meeting or even the simplest gesture of kindness from his family.

That evening at the CBCP, Mayor briefly excused himself from the interview to have a moment with his wife—their third time to meet since he testified at the Senate. The couple embraced for a long time and when they returned, they were both teary-eyed.

Mayor said he cried when his youngest daughter sent him P1,000 for his daily expenses at the safe house. He said the amount was just half of the tip he usually gave to waiters and his drivers during his heyday.

This daughter, he said, used to live a pampered life. He gave her a Ford Escape and P45,000 on her graduation.

Simple life

Now she survives on a minimum salary. Nevertheless, she has not forgotten her father and this means a lot to Mayor.

"Indeed, your family will never abandon you," he said.

The Mayors—the couple, their three children and four grandchildren—make ends meet with a combined P30,000 monthly salary. His wife earns about half of the amount as an employee for a company in Manila.

Sometimes, one of his children would phone from Albay, saying that the family had no money for the next day's meals. "It breaks my heart," he said.

Back in 2001 when he began his undisputed reign as Bicol's jueteng lord, he said each of his children, including the two who had families of their own, would get a P45,000 allowance from him. His wife pretty much got the same amount for shopping.

Real friends

"Back then, I thought we could never survive with P100,000," he recalled. "Now, I realize that even P1,000 has so much value."

Mayor said his downfall began when he ran and lost in the mayoral race in Daraga, Albay, in May 2004. He gave up his jueteng empire, which he had started building as early as the 1980s, in December the year before.

Politics squeezed his fortune dry and soon, he discovered who his real friends were. Hardly any one was outside of his family. Mayor did not get into the details.

He has found a handful of genuine supporters since he turned his back on jueteng and campaigned against it alongside Archbishop Cruz's Krusada ng Bayan Laban sa Jueteng.

Their stay at the Church-provided safe houses has forged a strong bond between Mayor and Cam, the bishop's two remaining key witnesses who had testified at the Senate. It's a new-found friendship nurtured by a common cause and a shared experience.

Lipstick money

Cam also left an affluent lifestyle. Gone are her jet-setting days to Hong Kong and Singapore, her wheeling and dealing with local politicians that padded her bank account.

She recalled the days when retired Bicol police director Restituto Mosqueda, the alleged bagman of Pampanga Rep. Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo and his uncle, Negros Occidental Rep. Ignacio "Iggy" Arroyo, purportedly gave her P50,000 on the spot "for lipstick."

She narrated staying in a safe house "smaller than her dressing room in her house in Masbate."

Another time, she said she spent 18 hours without food or water because the owner of the safe house had an emergency. Cam is diabetic.

One night, she had to sleep on a wooden bench, so small she had to sleep in a curled position. She decided to sleep on the floor and woke up with a sore back. Nevertheless, she attended the Senate hearing looking none the worse after a bad night.

For the truth

"I really admire these people," Cruz said of Mayor and Cam. "They left a rather luxurious life and now they're experiencing all these troubles for the sake of the truth."

The two swear they could not have gone this far without Cruz and the other prelates quietly supporting his anti-gambling crusade.

"He makes us feel he will always be there no matter what," Cam said.

Mayor admitted his initial motivation for coming out in May was purely self-serving.

He said he approached Cruz because alleged jueteng lords, like Rodolfo "Bong" Pineda, Charito Magbuhos and Batangas Gov. Armand Sanchez, were purportedly planning to take over his turf and control gambling operations nationwide with Malacañang's blessing.

No turning back

But soon after his initial meeting with the bishop, Mayor had a change of heart. "I realized that jueteng really had to be stopped," he said. "We were squeezing the poor dry while enriching ourselves. That's not fair."

There is no turning back now, he said, even if the Senate investigation seems doomed and witnesses Richard "RJ" Garcia and Demosthenes Abraham "Abe" Riva have joined the other side.

Just last week, Mayor said he was offered P30 million to leave Cruz and clear the Arroyos of any involvement in jueteng. He said the money would have solved his financial woes.

But the former multimillionaire said money couldn't buy his friendship with Cruz who has treated him like a son.

"Maybe God has a plan for me," he said. "I didn't expect to get involved in jueteng then and now I'm campaigning against it. Whatever God's plan is, I want to find my way back to Him."

Corrections

IN YESTERDAY'S issue, a Metro story on Page A15—"Former bank employee slain in Pasay attack"—misstated the Mitsubishi model Benjamin Beltran was driving on Saturday morning when he was shot and killed. The vehicle was a Lancer—not a Land Cruiser.

* * *

IN YESTERDAY'S editorial on Page A14, "Kids behind bars," it was misstated that Consuelo Foundation was a "philanthropic organization of industrialist Chito Madrigal Collantes." The Consuelo Zobel Alger Foundation (Consuelo Foundation for short) is a private foundation named after its founder Consuelo Zobel Alger. It was established in 1988 to improve the quality of life of disadvantaged children, women and families in the Philippines and Hawaii.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to Gerry Lirio, city editor, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City; fax Nos. 897-4793/94; e-mail addresses: glirio@inquirer.com.ph and daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

Complaints about lack of fairness or objectivity may be sent, pending the appointment of a new readers' advocate, to Isagani Yambot, publisher, the same address and fax numbers as those of the city editor, and e-mail address: iyambot@inquirer.com.ph.

A CALL FOR SOBRIETY AS WORLD OIL PRICES INCREASE

The Consumer & Oil Price Watch (COPW) appeals to the Department of Energy (DOE) to encourage sobriety as **fuel rationing** could trigger **panic buying** and **price speculation** by traders.

COPW RECOMMENDATION - CUT DOWN ON CONSUMPTION:

COPW stresses that, while **SUPPLY IS NOT THE PROBLEM**, we need to cut down on consumption to reduce pressure on our foreign exchange reserves as our import bill has increased from **$ 3.5 billion** to **$ 7.5 billion**.

This is based on Dubai crude's increased price of **$ 56** per barrel compared to last year's price of **$ 28** per barrel.

COPW REQUEST TO DOE-DOJ TASK FORCE:

COPW has requested DOE Secretary Rafael Lotilla and DOJ Secretary Raul Gonzales for an explanation on the substantial difference in the COPW computation and oil companies' computation of Diesel and Gasoline prices for the month of August.

A quick response is expected, which will provide COPW the basis to invoke Section 14(d) of the Oil Deregulation Law which states that any unreasonable rise in the prices of petroleum products shall be acted on immediately by the DOE-DOJ Task Force.

POSSIBLE REASONS FOR DISCREPANCY:

1. **The oil companies' under recovery.** We would like to finalize this issue with the DOE by determining the under recovery as of July 31st so we can start from an "ALL EVEN OR PATAS NA" position starting August.
2. **Discount to the transport sector.** We request from DOE the total liters of Diesel sold by 380 gas stations nationwide to the transport sector with a discount of P 1.00.
3. **SHELL's refinery breakdown.** We understand that SHELL had to import finished products from the region due to this. We request the DOE for the volume imported from the region.
4. **Other factors**. If there are other factors that both the COPW and the Oil Companies are unaware of, and so have NOT been considered in the preparation of the computations, we request the DOE to provide us with this information so we can inform the Consuming Public.

COPW STAND - PUMP PRICE ROLL-BACK:

1. **CALTEX, TOTAL, New Players**
   - They should roll back the price of **diesel** by **41 centavos**. The increase made last week should have been only **9** centavos instead of **50** centavos because the price of diesel imported from the region increased by only $ 0.07 (July $ 71.37 vs. June $ 71.31).
   - The increase in the price of unleaded **gasoline** should be **65** centavos instead of **50**. This is due to their under recovery of 15 centavos incurred when gasoline prices increased by $ 6.32 (July $ 64.70 vs June $ 58.38).
2. **Oil refiners PETRON and SHELL.**
   - They should roll back the price of diesel by 35 centavos and the price of **gasoline** by **14 centavos**. This is because DUBAI crude increased by $ 1.75 per barrel (July $ 52.83 vs. June $ 51.08) ONLY.

CONSUMER & OIL PRICE WATCH

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Philippines' 'coconet' a finalist in international contest

BAGUIO CITY—It is indeed the renaissance for the coconut industry. First it was virgin coconut oil. Today people are going loco over coco bio-diesel or cocomethyl ester.

Comes now another product from the tree of life—coconut geotextile.

Philippine coconut geotextile or coconet was chosen as a finalist in the World Challenge sponsored by Newsweek magazine and the British Broadcasting Corp. with the Shell Corp.

Coconet was cited for preventing landslides in the Philippines. It serves as a surrogate tree root by holding loose soil together, according to the World Challenge website which announced this year's 12 finalists.

The award is given to projects that show enterprise and innovation in the grassroots level.

The winner, which will be awarded $20,000 by Shell, will be chosen through online voting at www.theworldchallenge.co.uk that will end on Oct. 16.

Special mention was made of Dr. Justino Arboleda of Bicol University for pioneering the conversion of coconut coir into geotextile.

Arboleda recently received a Global 100 Eco-Tech award at World Expo 2005 in Aichi, Japan.

'The World Challenge website said 1,500 families were benefiting from the use of coconet which is being produced at the rate of 30,000 sq. m. per month.

So far, the biggest market for coco geotextile is China, which needs around 1 billion kilos of coco fiber, coco peat and other high-end value coconut products a year.

Plans are afoot to export P20 billion worth of geotextiles from the Bondoc peninsula in the Bicol region to China, to stop soil erosion there.

The Philippine Coconut Administration said this was just a fraction of what the coconut industry could produce at 1.2-million metric tons a year.

A documentary about coco geotextile will be shown on the BBC World cable channel on Sept. 24. It will also be featured in the Aug. 29 special issue of Newsweek.

Of the 12 finalists, two others aside from the Philippines were from Asia—in the Vanuatu Islands and India.

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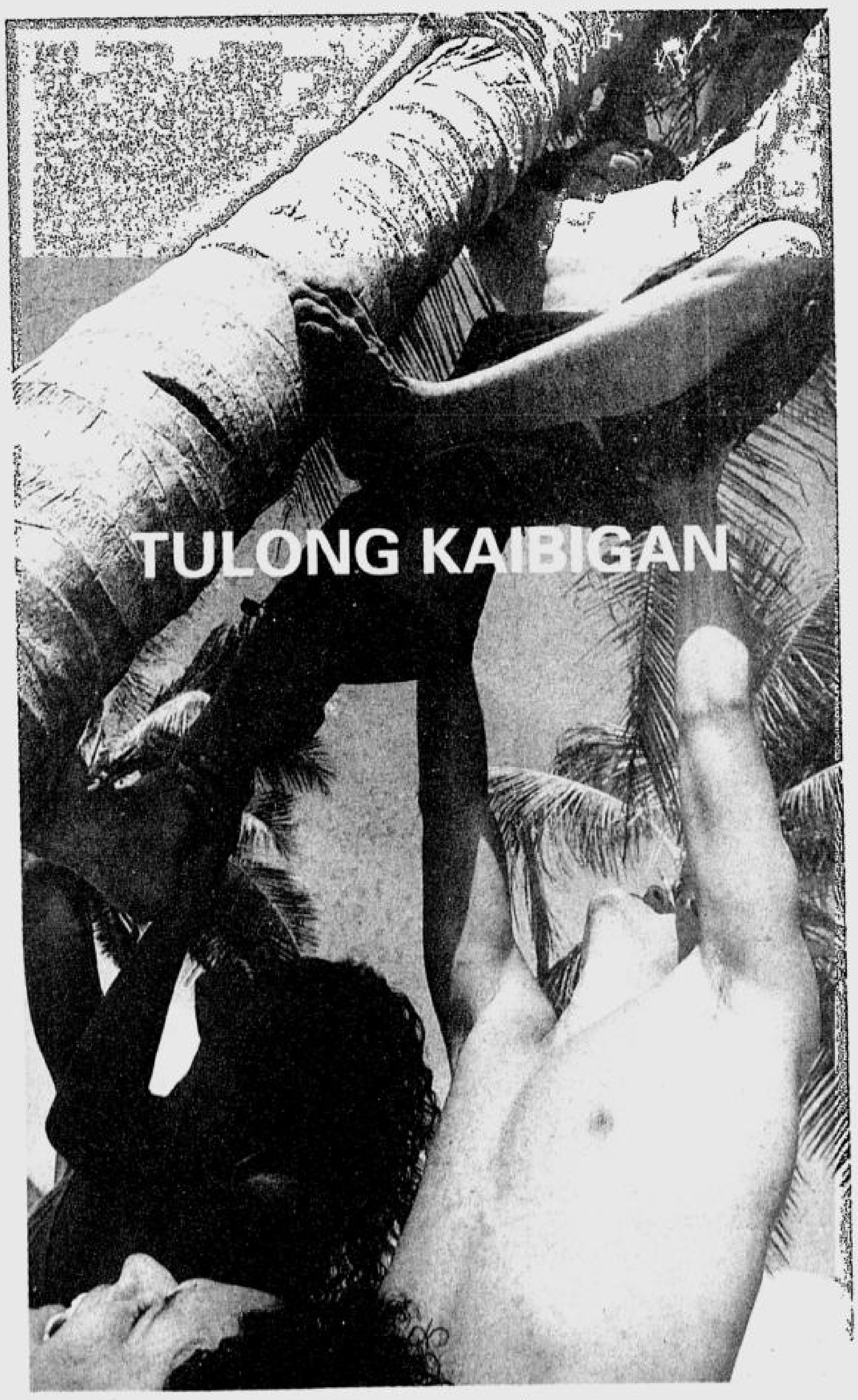

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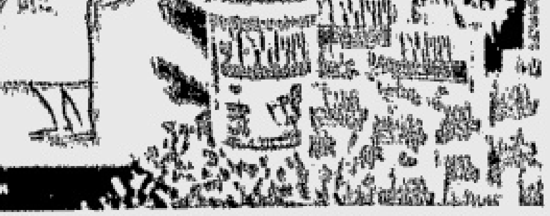
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BENIGNO S. AQUINO Jr.
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ERIK ARAZAS

FORMER President Corazon Aquino prays at the tomb of her husband, opposition leader Benigno Aquino Jr.

MAKATI Rep. Agapito "Butz" Aquino and former Sen. Teresita Aquino-Oreta offer flowers at the Ninoy Aquino marker on the Naia tarmac where their brother was assassinated in 1983. ROGER MARGALLO

GLORIA GUILTY

MILITANT youths rally aboard pedicabs against the Arroyo administration at the Ninoy Aquino Monument on Ayala Avenue in Makati City. ERIK ARAZAS

Mass for Ninoy reunites Gloria, political foes

From page A1

With daughter Evangelina Lourdes (Luli) holding her hand, Ms Arroyo, who was in a blue dress, prayed, smiled and stared at the flowers in front of her throughout the hourlong Mass. Her son Dato and his wife Cacai also joined her.

Tension

But tension was in the air.

"I know the President has made a special sacrifice to come. I'm sure she's doing it for Ninoy, and all of you are doing it for Ninoy," Ms Aquino said in brief remarks after the Mass.

On July 8, Ms Aquino called on Ms Arroyo to make the "ultimate sacrifice" and heed the growing call for her to stand down.

The former President's call capped a series of demands by political and business allies for Ms Arroyo to quit. It was triggered by the mass resignation of Soliman, six other Cabinet secretaries and three agency heads, collectively known as the "Hyatt 10."

Soliman used to be one of the President's favorite Cabinet members, often having girl talk with her over coffee.

Chided that she had sung with eyes closed the "Impossible Dream"—Benigno Aquino's favorite—during the Mass, Soliman giggled: "It's not a very impossible dream *naman*."

"The administration is really doing everything to stop proimpeachment congressmen from reaching the required 79 signatures," Soliman said at the launch. One third, or 79, of the House membership of 236 is required to move the impeachment case against Ms Arroyo to the Senate for trial.

In a trial, Soliman said, "We are sure of a conviction."

More uncertainty

Former Education Secretary Butch Abad, one of the Hyatt 10 who also attended the Mass, said at the launch of the Black and White Movement: "If the impeachment process is frustrated, where will the anger of the people go? It will put us in a more uncertain situation."

Abad and former Customs Commissioner Bert Lina sat just behind the President and Ms Aquino. "We are here for Ninoy and for everything that he stood for," Abad said.

"It's brave of GMA to come here," said a former member of Aquino's Cabinet who asked not to be identified.

But Teresita Deles, former presidential adviser for the peace process (OPAPP), was spared the discomfiture of having to buss the President. Deles was seated in the third row.

Ms Arroyo was a no-show at last year's Ninoy anniversary, which Malacañang had declared a public holiday.

Aquino said her sister-in-law, Lupita Kashiwara, had invited the President.

"Lupita told me about it on Friday," she said.

An award-winning movie director, Kashiwara has been Ms Arroyo's media consultant and image maker since last year's election.

Aquino joked that the employees from the four organizations honored by the Benigno Aquino Foundation were also requesting Malacañang to declare Ninoy's 22nd death anniversary a public holiday.

Since the date falls on a Sunday, the holiday could be observed today, Monday. *(See related story on Page A2.)*

"I hope you will be kind enough to grant their request," Aquino said as the crowd broke into laughter.

Ms Arroyo simply smiled.

Foundation

The Aquino Foundation honored the Center for Agriculture and Rural Development (CARD), TSPI Development Corp., the Center for Community Transformation and the ABS-CBN Bayan Foundation for providing livelihood loans to some 1.5 million households in some of the country's poorest communities.

Aquino said the example set by the four micro-finance institutions (MFIs) in helping impoverished Filipinos showed the other "dimension of people power."

"People power" referred to the mass of Filipinos who gathered at Edsa in February 1986, eventually toppling the 20-year rule of Ferdinand Marcos. In January 2001, a massive demonstration at Edsa also ousted Joseph Estrada.

"Because of what happened in 1986 and 2001, many have developed the notion that people power is something we summon only in times of political crises," Aquino said.

Two years ago, the Aquino Foundation started paying tribute to institutions which have been quietly "empowering" poor communities nationwide. Among the first "People Power People" awardees was the Couples for Christ for its widespread Gawad Kalinga housing projects.

The four MFIs were represented by their leaders: Ruth Callanta for CCT, Aris Alip for CARD, Ruben de Lara for TSPI and Reno Rayel for ABS-CBN Bayan Foundation.

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Young pro-GMA . . .

From page A1

Macapagal-Arroyo realized this soon enough.

Along with senior administration House officials, they were invited to a luncheon in the President's Room at the North Wing building, an hour before the impeachment hearing began on Wednesday.

According to two of the young House members, the invitation, relayed by phone at around 10 a.m. that same day, was clear: "It was a luncheon exclusively for administration members." It was to be hosted by Ms Arroyo's political adviser Gabriel Claudio on her behalf, they were told.

The food was sumptuous enough, the sources said, noting that it was provided by the same caterer behind the power dinners hosted by Speaker Jose de Venecia at his house in Dasmariñas Village, Makati City.

Not enough

But here's the catch: Over lunch, they were chided for not doing enough to defend Ms Arroyo in the impeachment hearing. Of the 140 or so proadministration House members, about a dozen are young, if not first-termers, among them Robert Jaworski Jr. of Pasig, Miles Roces of Manila and Raul Gonzalez of Iloilo.

They were also asked questions like: Why couldn't they be as aggressive as Representatives Francis Escudero of Sorsogon, Darlene Custodio of South Cotabato and Alan Peter Cayetano of Taguig-Pateros, who were all over television articulating their case against Ms Arroyo?

The INQUIRER's sources were not sure if all of the proadministration House members showed up for the luncheon.

But they spotted about 20 early birds among the senior members, including Majority Leader Prospero Nograles, Representatives Simeon Datumanong, Prospero Pichay, Rodolfo Antonino of Nueva Ecija, Luis Villafuerte of Camarines Sur and some members of the "Spice Boys," who had headed the signature drive in the impeachment of President Joseph Estrada in January 2001.

Buffet

All the senior House members took turns cajoling the young House members as they waited for their turn at the buffet of *bulalo*, chicken *kaldereta*, fresh *lumpia* and fried *tilapia*, among other dishes.

There was plenty of food as there were a lot of questions and instructions to the young House members.

The young House members were also given blue ribbons to wear during the hearing for easy identification during roll call and to counter Escudero, Custodio and Cayetano, who all wore peach ribbons.

They were given briefing papers, or what they called "talking points" on the impeachment, including copies of the complaint filed by lawyer Ernesto Francisco against then Ombudsman Aniano Desierto during the 12th Congress.

When recognized by Datumanong, chair of the justice committee, during the impeachment hearing, a young proadministration congressman, they were told, was supposed to argue that there should be only one impeachment complaint against the President each year and that the rest of the complaints must be junked.

Try gov't channel

They were also told to make themselves readily available for media interviews. "If you can't make it to the INQUIRER or ANC," a young congressman quoted a senior House member as saying, "go see and talk to Freddie Abando of (government-run) PTV-4; Freddie has a program on Radyo ng Bayan aired simultaneously on PTV-4 at 8:45 p.m. to 10 p.m., Monday to Friday."

A young congressman asked what senior House members thought of Rep. Joel Villanueva of the Citizens Against Crime and Corruption who allegedly made an incoherent argument by mixing truth and hunger during the televised hearing last week.

Villanueva is vigorously covered by Channel 11, a television station owned by his father, defeated presidential candidate Bro. Eddie Villanueva, according to a young congressman. "Even if he looks dumb, he is in the Channel 11 headline news," he said.

Pichay, who was seated at the presidential table, with the presidential seal as backdrop, cautioned the young House members against talking too much.

He cited Environment Secretary Michael Defensor who, he said, successfully resurrected the "Hello Garci" tape controversy two weeks ago. "Mike got it all wrong, all because he's still too young," he reportedly said.

After lunch, all the proadministration House members went straight to the impeachment hearing. But no one among them, a young congressman noted, wore his blue ribbon.

Bidding saves AFP millions

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

AMID allegations of widespread corruption in military procurement, the Armed Forces of the Philippines is now purchasing most of its supplies and services through public bidding to ensure transparency.

Defense Undersecretary Jose Santos, who chairs the Department of National Defense's Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), said the military had made it a policy to have all contracts awarded through open and competitive public bidding.

For years, the Armed Forces had been procuring most of its supplies and services through direct deals with favored suppliers. Procurement officials would "shop around" and choose who among available suppliers would get the lucrative contracts.

Under the new setup adopted last year, according to Santos, the AFP-BAC handles contracts below P50 million.

Contracts above P50 million are handled by the DND-BAC.

AFP-BAC chair Navy Rear Adm. Jorge Necesito said they have generated savings of nearly P10 million from the 14 contracts for equipment repairs and other services so far awarded this year.

For those 14 projects, the AFP allocated P86.5 million but was able to lower the cost to P76.6 million through public bidding.

Brillantes said they also saved about P20 million from the P100-million allocated for the procurement of Army boots, battledress attire and ponchos.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, August 22, 2005
Queenship of Mary

1st Reading: Is 9:1-6
Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth. He was sent to a young virgin who was betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the family of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.

The angel came to her and said, "Rejoice, full of grace, the Lord is with you." Mary was troubled at these words, wondering what this greeting could mean.

But the angel said, "Do not fear, Mary, for God has looked kindly on you. You shall conceive and bear a son and you shall call him Jesus. He will be great and shall rightly be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the kingdom of David, his ancestor; he will rule over the people of Jacob forever and his reign shall have no end."

Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be if I am a virgin?" And the angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore, the holy child to be born shall be called Son of God. Even your relative Elizabeth is expecting a son in her old age, although she was unable to have a child, and she is now in her sixth month. With God nothing is impossible."

Then Mary said, "I am the handmaid of the Lord, let it be done to me as you have said." And the angel left her.

Commentary

AGAIN we hear the story of the first disciple and believer in Luke's community, the model for all disciples of the Word made Flesh who dwells among us in Incarnation, in the Scriptures and in our lives by baptism, and in the people he has made his own on earth. Our God is Lord of history, not just Israel's but all peoples, all nations and all the earth. Our God is the fulfillment of all the hopes, the prophecies, the promises of the human race for millions of years. Our God is the Word made flesh among us forever. This presence is with us always in the Scriptures, in the Eucharist, in the Church, in the poor and in those who cry out for justice, who obey the Word that they have heard and seek the coming of God's will and God's kingdom on earth now. This is what we pray for in the Our Father and this is what Mary models as believer and disciple when she answers in the tradition of Moses, Isaiah, David and many others: "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord." This is our dignity, our calling and it is the way the kingdom of God comes to earth.

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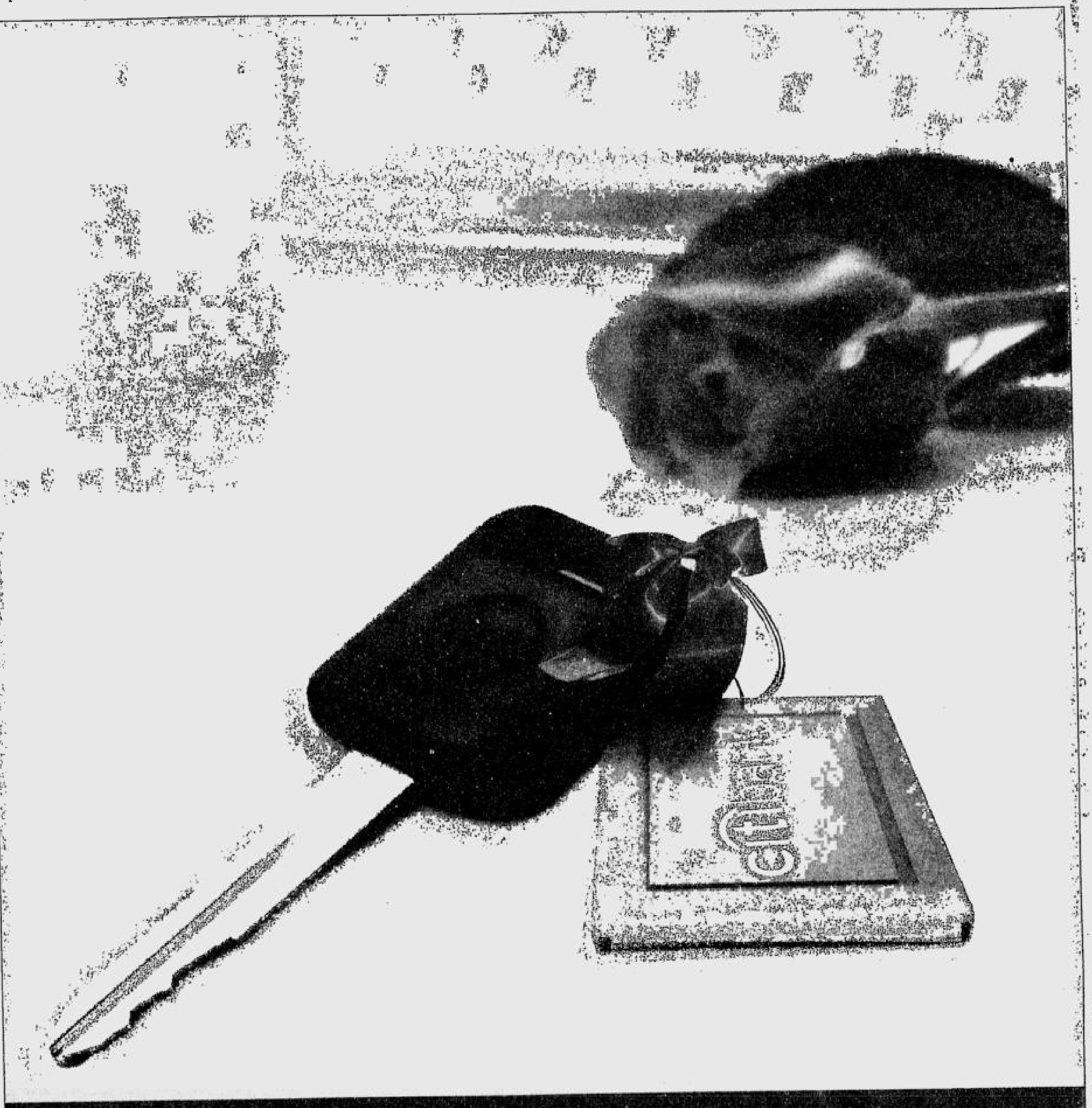
Asean, European Union universities set Manila meet

THE ASEAN-EU University Network Programme (AUNP), a joint higher education cooperation program financed by a network of top Asean universities and the European Union, will hold the first meeting of its grant-holders on Aug. 25 and 26 at Toribio Teodoro Hall of the University of the Philippines at Diliman. Hosts are UP and De La Salle University.

The meeting shall provide an opportunity for an exchange of experiences and ideas, as well as information and contacts, that may prove useful in building partnerships among the universities in the two regions.

Through AUNP, schools in the Asean University Network (AUN) and the European Union collaborate on the implementation of projects in the areas of human resource development, curriculum development and applied research.

After two calls for proposals, 20 projects involving 102 EU and Asean universities were selected for funding.



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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Pope wraps up visit with huge Mass

COLOGNE, Germany—Pope Benedict XVI was to give a huge open-air Mass Sunday to wrap up the first foreign trip of his pontificate in which he fulfilled his pledge to build "bridges of friendship" with Jews and Muslims.

The Mass at Marienfeld park, expected to be attended by 800,000 Roman Catholics, is the culmination of the World Youth Day jamboree, invented two decades ago by the Pope's charismatic predecessor John Paul II.

The public appearances of the naturally shy Benedict during the four-day visit to his native Germany were closely watched for signs of how he compares with John Paul II, who even in his later years wracked by illness could excite huge crowds, reaching out particularly to young people.

Benedict received a rapturous reception late Saturday from at least 700,000 young Catholics gathered for an open-air prayer vigil at Marienfeld, a former mine complex outside Cologne, where he told them "true revolution" to overturn the injustices of history comes "only from God."

But the 78-year-old Pope admitted there was "much that could be criticized" in the Catholic Church. "It is a net with good fish and bad fish."

Benedict was due to return to Rome on Sunday evening at the end of what is being seen as a highly successful visit during which he met German Jewish and Muslim leaders.

During his landmark visit to Cologne's synagogue on Friday—only the second ever by a pope to a Jewish place of worship—he condemned the "unimaginable crime" of the Holocaust in an address to Jewish leaders.

And on Saturday he urged Muslim leaders to do more to combat the "cruel fanaticism" of terrorism that aimed to poison ties between Christians and Muslims.

But delivering the same kind of conciliatory message he had given to Jews the day before, he said he was "profoundly convinced that we must not yield to negative pressures in our midst, but affirm the values of mutual respect, solidarity and peace."

Reminding them of their "great responsibility" in educating their young, he told the Muslim delegation who met him in Cologne there was "no room for apathy and disengagement, and even less for partiality and sectarianism."

PILGRIMS huddle in blankets for warmth in the early morning prior to the final Mass with Pope Benedict XVI at the Marienfeld, near Cologne, Germany, Aug. 21. AP

As he had with the Jewish community, Benedict acknowledged the bloodstained history of relations between Christians and Muslims: "The recollection of these sad events should fill us with shame, for we know only too well what atrocities have been committed in the name of religion."

"The lessons of the past must help us to avoid repeating the same mistakes," said the Pope. "We must seek paths of reconciliation and learn to live with respect for each other's identity.

Meanwhile, many young pilgrims spent the night in the huge Marienfeld park to await the return of the Pope for the Mass that he is to celebrate with hundreds of bishops, the climax of his visit.

Security was tight for the papal visit with fears heightened by this summer's terrorist attacks in London, with 4,000 police deployed in Cologne and the surrounding area.

In addition, some 4,000 private security guards were on duty for the duration of the Pope's four-day sojourn.

Nato supplied Awacs radar planes to patrol the skies and other aircraft must apply for special permission to fly over the area.

Following the Mass the Pope was expected to unveil to organizers the venue of the next youth jamboree in 2008, which the Catholic news agency KNA said would be in Sydney in Australia. *AFP*

Besieged Bush defends cost of Iraq war

CRAWFORD, Texas—US President George W. Bush, besieged at his ranch by relatives of US soldiers killed in Iraq, launched a five-day campaign on Saturday to defend the war to an increasingly skeptical US public.

In his weekly radio address from his Prairie Chapel property, Bush said that the war would help avert another attack like the Sept. 11 terrorist strikes and that the best way to honor fallen US troops was to defeat global terrorism.

"We must finish the task that our troops have given their lives for and honor their sacrifice by completing their mission," said Bush, whose approval ratings have slipped to some of the lowest levels of his presidency.

More than 1,800 US soldiers have been killed in Iraq and thousands more wounded in a conflict with a price tag in the tens of billions of dollars.

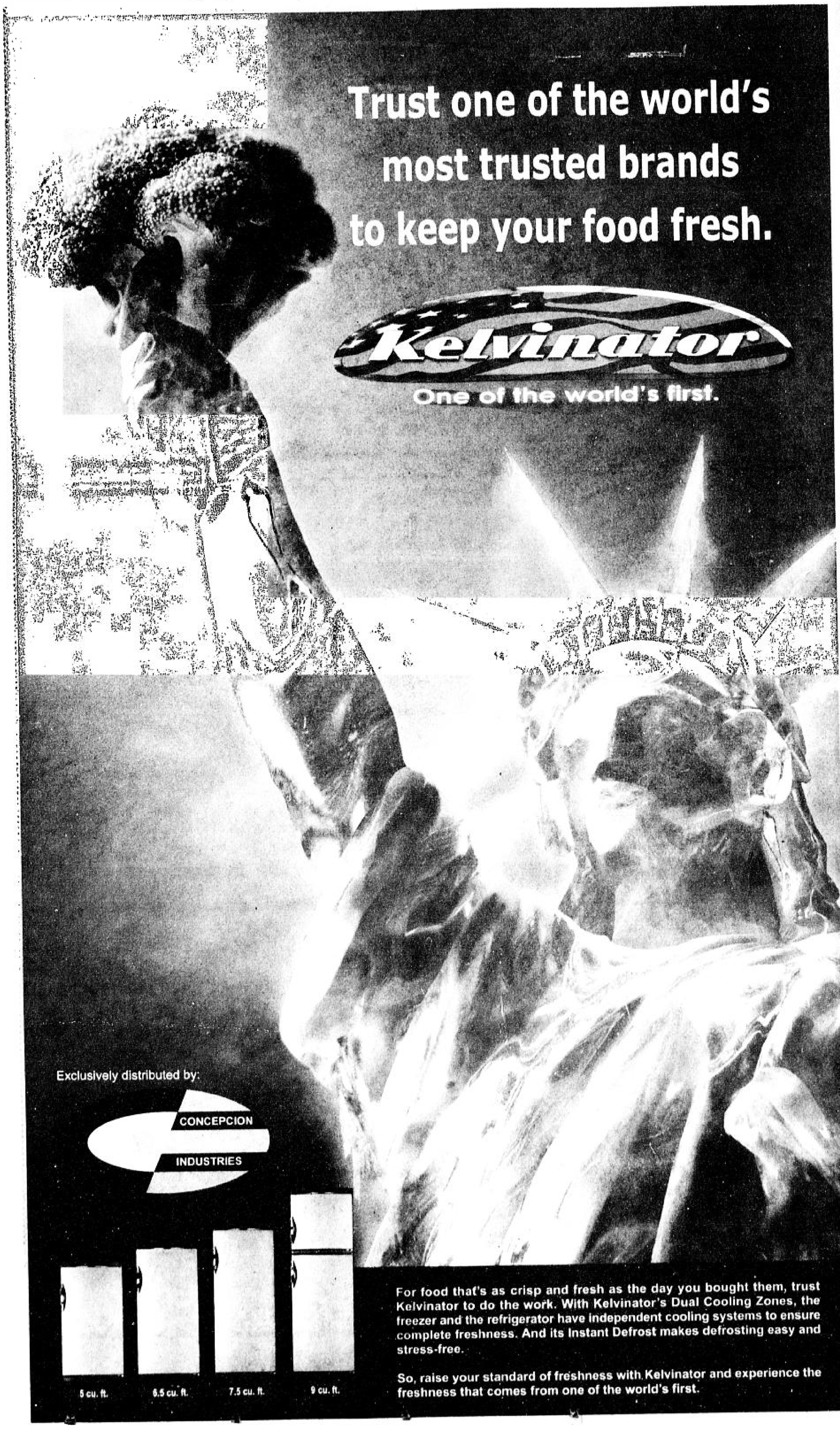
A recent poll found that a majority of Americans—57 percent—believe that the war has made the United States more vulnerable to terrorist attacks, despite Bush's frequent arguments that the conflict has made them safer.

US soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan "know that if we do not confront these evil men abroad, we will have to face them one day in our own cities and streets, and they know that the safety and security of every American is at stake in this war, and they know we will prevail," he said.

Bush's five-week stay at the ranch has been marked by a high-profile protest against the war in Iraq, led by Cindy Sheehan, who says she wants a face-to-face meeting with the president.

Sheehan, who met with Bush shortly after her son Casey was killed in Iraq in 2004, left the makeshift camp outside the ranch late last week to tend to her sick mother, but promised to return soon.

Bush was to travel to Utah on Monday to address a major veterans group, and head to Idaho Wednesday to speak with members of the Idaho National Guard, as well as praise forces who played a key role in the Afghanistan campaign. *AFP*



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COULD-HAVE-BEEN ATTACK A MONTH AGO

Mystery still shrouds failed London bombings

By Robert MacPherson

LONDON—One month on, and even with the suspected perpetrators in custody awaiting trial, mystery shrouds the failed attempt one month ago Sunday to repeat the brutal July 7 bombings in London.

Islamist extremists, inspired if not directed by Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network, were reputedly behind both the July 7 and July 21 attacks on three Underground subway lines and a double-decker bus.

In the first case, 56 people died, including four apparent suicide bombers—three of them born in Britain, the fourth a Jamaican-born convert to Islam.

No one died in the second attempt, allegedly carried out mainly by immigrants from East Africa, but it shook Londoners to a greater degree—and led the next day to the police shooting of an innocent Brazilian worker.

With its biggest-ever criminal investigation still very much under way, the Metropolitan Police has yet to establish a firm link between the two groups—although it strongly suspects there is one.

For that reason, its commissioner Sir Ian Blair said this week, there is every reason to fear that a third cell, or more, are out there, waiting to pounce.

"Intuitively, there are such similarities between the methodology and the equipment that we must think there is a possibility of others," he told the Evening Standard newspaper.

Detectives, drawing on their experience with Irish Republican Army (IRA) bombing campaigns in the 1980s and 1990s, focused intensely on the second incident, sensing it would turn out to be a gold mine of evidence.

Three men—Yasin Hassan Omar, 24, Ramzi Mohammed, 23, and Muktar Said Ibrahim, 27—have been charged with attempted murder, conspiracy and possession of explosives at the Warren Street and Oval subway stations and the Number 26 bus.

Osman Hussain, also known as Hamdi Issac, 27, was arrested in Rome on July 29 on suspicion of trying to carry out an attack at Shepherd's Bush station. His extradition back to Britain is pending.

A fifth man, Manfo Kwaku Asiedu, 32, is also being held on suspicion of conspiracy to murder after a discarded rucksack was found in a west London park two days after July 21.

Neither the first nor the second group left videos or other messages claiming responsibility or setting out motives, but al-Qaida's second in command Ayman al-Zawahiri has condoned their actions.

Jeremy Binnie, an analyst with Jane's Terrorism and Insurgency Centre in London, said it was "entirely possible that the second group might have been independently planning another kind of attack and reconfigured their plan" in order to duplicate the first group.

The July 7 group probably acquired its bomb-making skills from Pakistan, then decided what its targets would be upon their return to Britain, Binnie told AFP this week.

On the other hand, the July 21 cell had "very different bomb technology from the first group, and their bombs didn't go off," raising the prospect that they had no "outside assistance" and tried to assemble their bombs themselves.

Binnie also believed that al-Qaida, most notorious for the Sept. 11 attacks in the United States in 2001, was likely an inspiration to the London bombers, and not the commander of operations.

"As al-Qaida becomes less of an organization, it becomes more of an ideology in itself ... To be al-Qaida, all you have to do is go out and do something. You don't actually have to have any contact with Bin Laden," he said.

The investigation into the London bombings was overshadowed this week by allegations—strenuously denied by Blair—of a cover-up in the shooting the day after July 21 of Brazilian electrician Jean Charles de Menezes.

De Menezes was killed by armed police in a south London subway station in the mistaken belief that he was a suicide bomber, but information leaked to ITV television this week seriously contradicted the initial version of events.

"We have apologized and we take responsibility for it," the police commissioner told BBC radio this week as an independent probe into the 27-year-old man's death continued. *AFP*

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Thus, QuantumFlex is perfect for those who want the flexibility and freedom to choose their ideal payment option. Persons like high net worth individuals and OFWs can pick the 3-year option for the fastest way to get covered. OFWs, in particular, might find this option the most attractive, since their contracts are usually good for three years.

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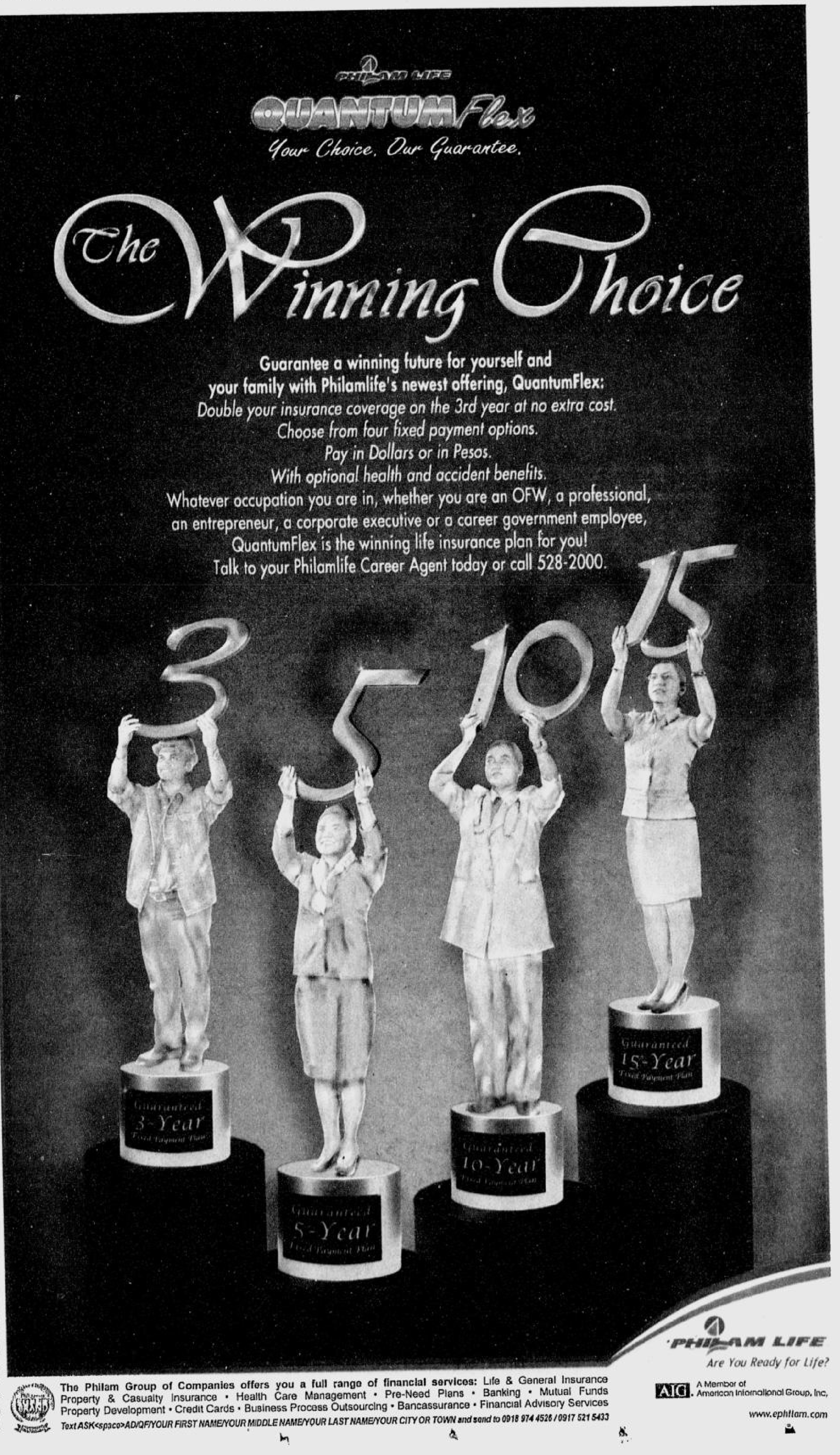
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Ecuador deploys troops to end strike

LAGO AGRIO, Ecuador—Ecuador has deployed army troops to its oil-producing Amazon region and declared an end to a six-day strike there that had sent jitters through the industrial world.

Interior Minister Mauricio Gandara said late Saturday he had been informed that residents of the strike-hit Andean region "had decided to end the strike."

"We are glad that reason has prevailed and people will be returning to work because the damage from the strike has been enormous, reaching about $500 million," the minister said.

But worker representative Guadalupe Llori disputed that account.

"We are considering just a suspension to be able to hold talks with the national government," she told AFP in a telephone interview.

Earlier in the day, troops were deployed to end roadblocks and protect oil facilities from attack, the state oil firm Petroecuador said in a statement.

"With the cooperation of the armed forces we have managed to reopen some roads and gain access to the operational areas, thanks to which the oil workers can restart operations in those stations and wells which are not heavily affected" by the protests, the statement said.

The government of President Alfredo Palacio declared a state of emergency in Sucumbios and Orellana provinces Wednesday where protests have grown demanding a greater share of revenues.

The protests have forced Ecuador to suspend oil exports, a key source of foreign exchange, costing the country some $30 million a day in lost revenues.

Oil prices shot higher Friday after the suspension added to fears over tight global supply. New York's main contract, light sweet crude for delivery in September, rallied $2.08 to $65.35 per barrel in closing trade.

Ecuador is South America's fifth-largest oil producer and more than half of its exports go to the United States. It also supplies Asian nations.

Petroecuador's normal production is 210,000 barrels a day. Private companies produce another 340,000 barrels a day, but their output has been cut to about 150,000 barrels because of the dispute, said Rene Ortiz, a spokesperson for the private oil firms.

Venezuela has offered to make up any shortfalls in domestic oil needs, President Hugo Chavez's office said. *AFP*

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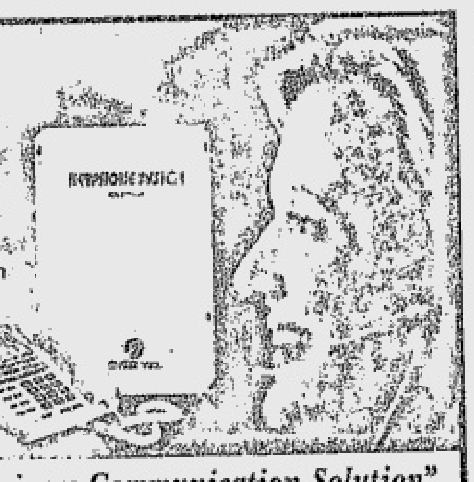

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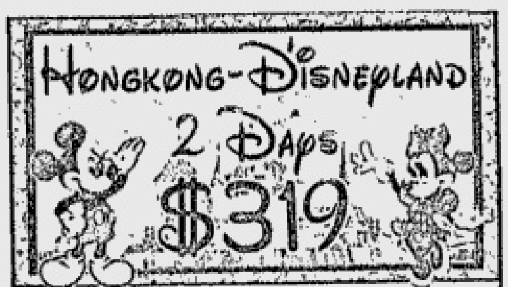

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Japan to defer bid for UN seat

TOKYO—Japan will give up its bid to secure a permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council for the time being after it failed to win enough international support, a daily said Sunday.

Japan, the second largest UN donor after the United States, has been jointly lobbying for permanent council membership with Brazil, Germany and India as part of the so-called Group of Four or G4.

The G4 proposal calls for increasing council membership from 15 to 25, with six new permanent seats without veto power—one each for Brazil, Germany, India and Japan and two for the African region, and four non-permanent seats.

A two-thirds majority or 128 votes is needed in the 191-member General Assembly for adoption. But the Sankei Shimbun daily said only 90 nations, including Britain and France, supported the G4 blueprint.

The United States, Japan's closest ally, has said it supports Japan's bid but not that of the three others. The G4 proposal is also opposed by China, Japan's regional rival, and the 53-member African Union.

Any of the five current permanent members—Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States—could veto the proposals being considered by the UN General Assembly to expand the council.

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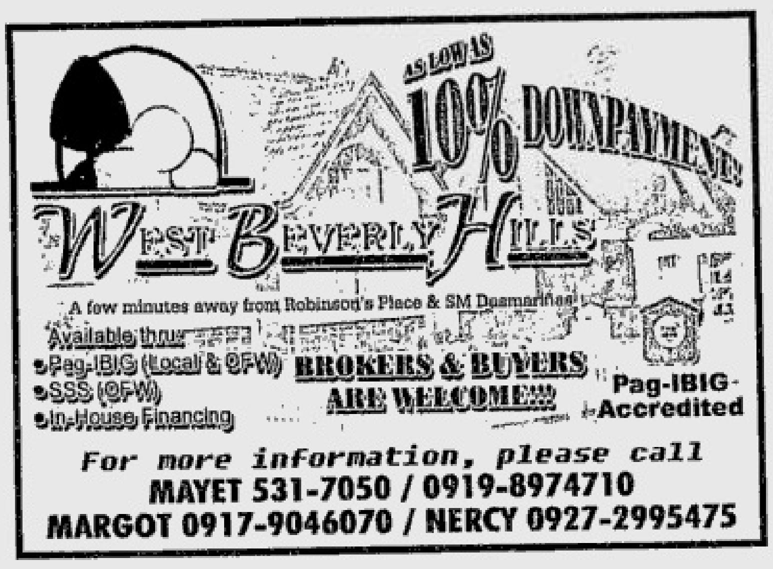
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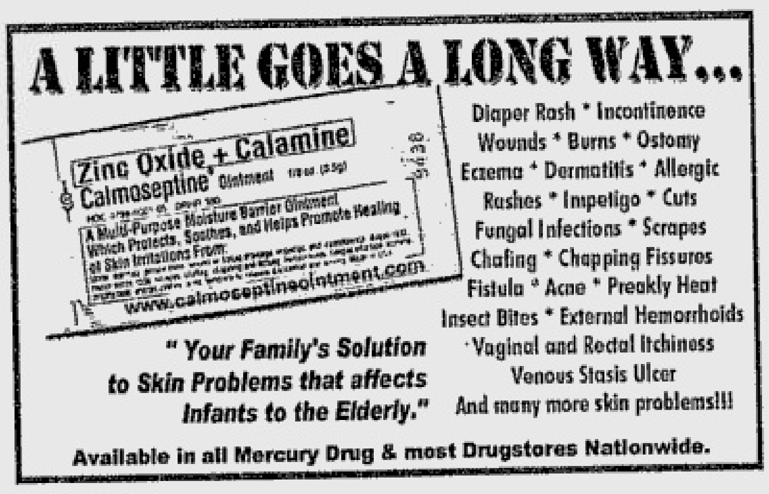
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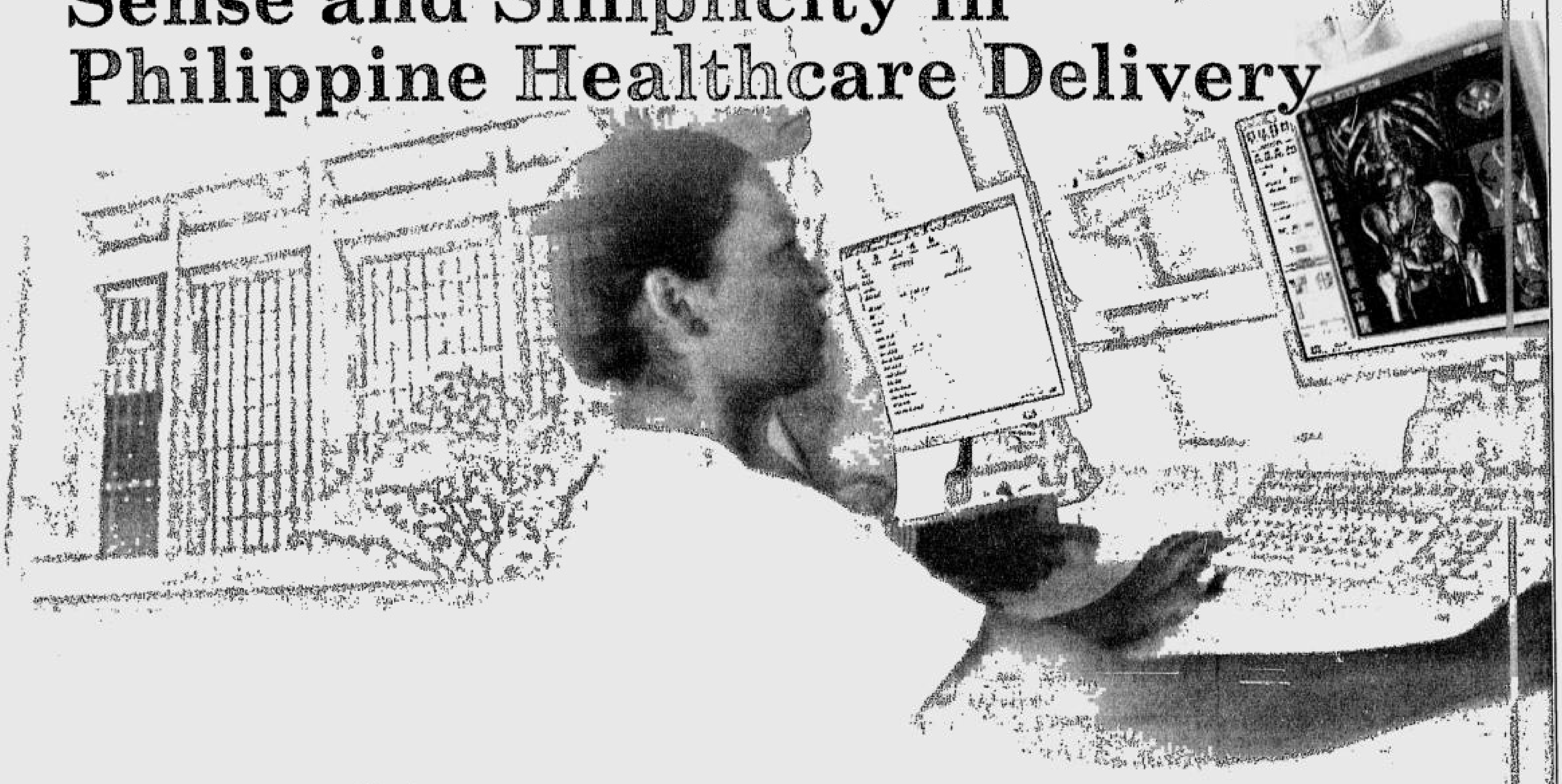
Sense and Simplicity in Philippine Healthcare Delivery



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Under a program called ORET (Ontwikkelings Relevante Export Transacties which translates to Development Relevant Export Transaction), the Netherlands Government, under its Official Development Aid (ODA) Program, extended a EUR 22.5 million export credit facility and grant to the Department of Health for extensive Philips medical equipment for the development of specialty heart-lung-kidney centers under the DOH Health Sector Reform Agenda.

This partnership has paved the way for the delivery of an extensive line of medical equipment and related services from Philips Medical Systems to enhance healthcare services nationwide.

Five government hospitals – Philippine Heart Center, Bicol Regional and Training Hospital, Vicente Sotto Memorial Medical Center, Davao Medical Center and Northern Mindanao Medical Center - are participating in the medical facilities development program. Through the ORET project, DOH is able to develop an online referral structure with the center of excellence in Manila and satellite hospitals in provincial locations to attend to the needs of the population in the various areas of preventive and curative healthcare delivery.

Aside from the supply of equipment to the hospitals, Philips also conducts training sessions to help develop biomedical engineers for the beneficiary hospitals to maintain the medical equipment.

Today's installation of a Philips Brilliance 40 slice CT scan at The Philippine Heart Center marks the first phase delivery of the ORET project.

> ***"The ORET Program significantly enhances our healthcare services nationwide. With Philips healthcare solutions and technology, The efficiency of specialist hospitals and medical centers, like the Philippine Heart Center, is greatly enhanced. We are happy that many of us will now benefit from the diagnostic capabilities and referral structure of these hospitals."***

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Philips combines its knowledge of medical technology and imaging expertise with hospitals' and doctors' clinical know-how to provide state-of-the-art medical equipment – equipment designed to respond to the individual needs of the patient while making the work of doctors and nurses easier, faster and more cost effective.

Under the ORET project, Philips Medical Systems equipment for the five Philippine medical centers include non-invasive diagnostic, imaging, operating room, recovery, haemodialysis and bronchoscopy tools.

As hospitals and medical centers increasingly become patient-focused, Philips helps in putting the patient at the heart of all the services and care offered.

> ***"Philips takes immense pride in the technological innovations that we have brought to the area of healthcare. We see this as fulfilling our mission of creating meaningful technology that enhances the lives of people throughout the world.***
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> ***We would like to congratulate The Philippine Heart Center for the successful installation of state-of-the-art Philips 40 slice Brilliance CT Scan and we look forward to a fruitful partnership to bring world class healthcare services to the people of the Philippines."***

Andreas Wente
President and CEO
Philips Medical Systems Asia Pacific

Lee Weng Seong
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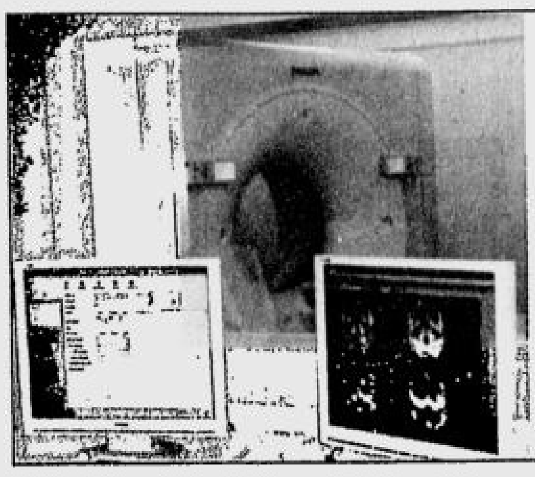

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Jihad militants dare Abbas to stop their suicide plots

By Ned Parker

IN A direct challenge to Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas, who has appealed to militants not to flaunt their weapons, dozens of masked Hamas gunmen briefly took over Gaza City's central square Aug. 20, announcing they won't halt attacks despite Israel's withdrawal from Gaza. AP

KHAN YUNIS, Gaza Strip—Abu Musab, in a black ski mask, softly declares his intent to be a suicide bomber.

"Twenty-two years is enough to live," says the member of the radical Palestinian group Islamic Jihad, his brown eyes darting out from behind the mask.

"I hope to be a martyr or a suicide bomber ... I will go soon. This is our plan for the future," he says, kneeling on a rug and flowered cushion next to his mentor, 27-year-old Jihad commander Abu Hamza who sports a Fu Manchu style beard.

Here in the cement warrens of southern Gaza's Khan Yunis city, the uneasy truce between Palestinian leader Mahmud Abbas and militant groups like Hamas and Islamic Jihad has held through most of Israel's Gaza Strip withdrawal but could fray any second.

While Hamas expects to sweep January legislative elections in Gaza, its smaller rival Islamic Jihad could prove to be the spoiler of the reigning peace.

In Khan Yunis, away from Abbas's Gaza City power base, Islamic Jihad militants appear in a bellicose mood. Abu Hamza sits surrounded by four masked gunmen and pictures of Jihad's slain founder Fathi Shikaki and Hamas spiritual guide Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, killed last year by Israel.

"We lived in what they called peace. But we got nothing from that peace. Only this five-year intifada was enough for the enemy to leave Gaza," Abu Hamza says of the uprising against Israeli occupation unleashed in September 2000.

Despite avowals of their wish for unity, co-existence does not seem tenable between Islamic Jihad, which styles itself as a military elite, and Abbas' Palestinian Authority. The two have a history fraught with tensions and periodic violence.

Abu Hamza possesses his own personal stories of bad blood with the security forces. In 1998, Abu Hamza claims the police detained him for a week, strung him from the ceiling by his feet and kept him awake for hours.

Asked if he was angry, the militant quotes a saying from Islam's prophet Mohammed that a Muslim cannot fight his own brother.

But once Israel's historic pullout is finished, the Palestinian Authority and Islamic Jihad could be locked on a path that may lead to just such a scenario.

Islamic Jihad, which was the last group to launch a major attack on Israel ahead of the pullout, with a July suicide bombing in the coastal town of Netanya, says it will pursue attacks against Israel unless the authorities can stop them.

"The security forces will not give the resistance the chance to strike Israel, but we will do what's right for the nation ... If the Palestinian Authority's intelligence has any knowledge of our attacks, it is clear they will stop us, but they will not be able to stop all the attacks." *AFP*

Brunei's sultan marries Malaysian ex-newscaster

KUALA LUMPUR—Brunei's Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah has married a 26-year-old former Malaysian television journalist who has become his second wife, reports said Sunday.

The 58-year-old ruler of the oil-rich state married Azrinaz Mazhar Hakim at a private ceremony in the Malaysian capital on Friday night, The New Straits Times said in a front-page report.

It cited an unnamed guest as saying that the ceremony was attended by family members, relatives and close friends of the couple. No other details were given.

The report could not be immediately confirmed in Brunei, where the private lives of the royal family are often shrouded in secrecy.

Azrinaz was educated in Malaysia and spent several years as a broadcast journalist and later as a newscaster with private station TV3.

She left TV3 in May this year, saying that she wanted to "venture into other undertakings," the New Straits Times said.

Following her departure, rumors had been rife that she would marry the sultan, whose vast wealth is fueled by his family's control of the oil-based economy.

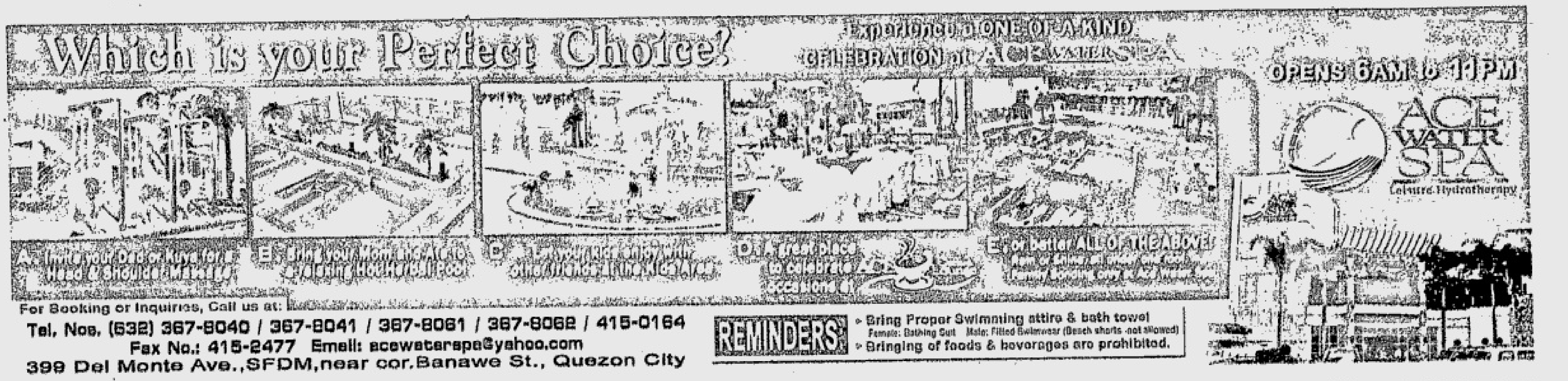
In February 2003 he abruptly divorced his second wife, former flight attendant Mariam Abdul Aziz, and ordered all her royal titles withdrawn.

AZRINAZ REUTERS

A royal announcement on state-run television did not give any reason for the divorce from Mariam, who is mother to two of the sultan's four sons and two of his six daughters.

Polygamy is legal in the oil-rich Muslim nation, and the sultan remains married to his first wife Anak Saleha who he wed in 1967.

The sultan ascended to the throne on Oct. 5, 1967, after his father abdicated voluntarily. He has a vast private fortune in addition to being in control of the country's tremendous oil wealth. He was the world's richest man in 1997, worth almost US$40 billion (euro33.3 billion). His current assets are not known. *AFP, AP*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OPINION

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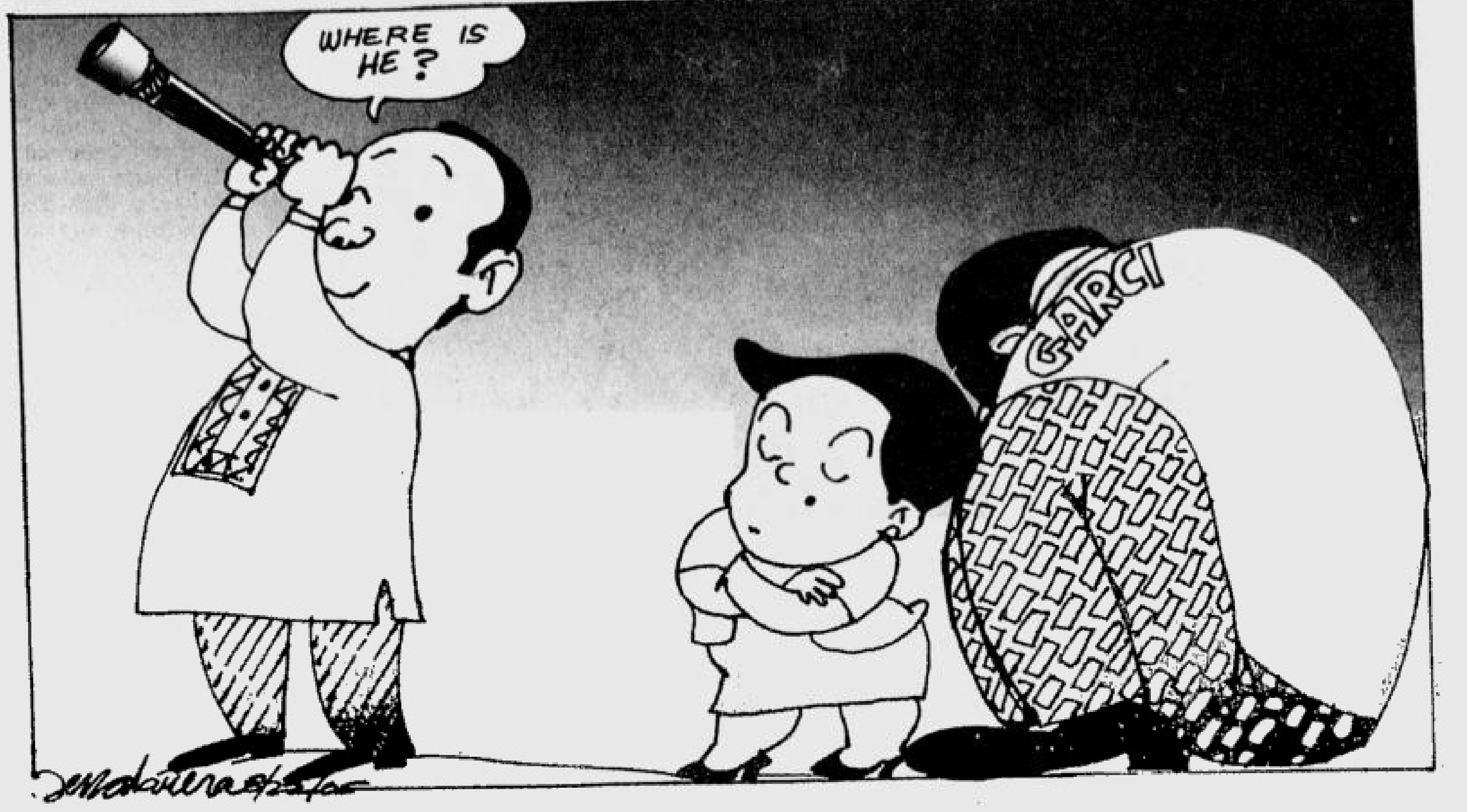

The fugitive

EDITORIAL

STRICTLY speaking, administration stalwart Rep. Prospero Pichay called it right. "[Former election commissioner] Garcillano is not a fugitive from justice. The Constitution guarantees his right to travel," the congressman said on Friday.

If the reports are accurate, the controversial election official left the country through Singapore more than a month ago, on July 14. Strictly speaking, there was no legal impediment to prevent him from boarding the plane: He had not yet been ordered arrested by the House of Representatives; he was not the subject of a hold-departure order; he faced neither prosecution nor conviction before a court.

It is that last condition that the Department of Foreign Affairs, under heavy criticism for its perceived role in Garcillano's "escape," now finds itself giving emphasis to.

"The DFA or the DOJ (the Department of Justice) is NOT the proper forum to determine whether Garcillano is a fugitive from justice or not. That function belongs to the Philippine Courts," a note at the top of the department's website explained. (Emphasis in the original.)

The note also quoted from a year-old DOJ opinion based on two Supreme Court decisions: The label of "fugitive from justice" applies "not only (to) those who flee after conviction to avoid punishment but likewise to those who, after being charged, flee to avoid prosecution."

Strictly speaking, Garcillano does not fit into these categories; not now, and not when he left for Singapore. But the Arroyo administration would be in serious error if it thinks that the matter can be left at that.

Sen. Panfilo Lacson, a leader of the political opposition and a former chief of the Philippine National Police, has insisted that the controversial election official could not have left the country's borders without the help of contacts in the Bureau of Immigration. "My suspicion is that it is the government which allowed Garci to leave," Lacson said. Even someone leaving through the so-called back door would need "exit stamps" from a BI contact, for instance. "Who has the capacity to do that? Only the government or the administration," Lacson said.

Strictly speaking, one does not need to conspire with the entire government to be able to leave the country undetected; one needs to conspire only with officials in the right places. Many fugitives have done exactly that, including former top police officers known to Lacson himself.

But this is cold comfort for the administration. In the public view, the flight of Garcillano was obviously conducted in secrecy; therefore, it was a conspiracy of the entire government.

It is important to note that, since the Hello Garci scandal broke out on June 6, Garcillano broke his silence only once: He spoke by telephone with an INQUIRER reporter, from an undisclosed location, in an arrangement facilitated by Pichay, and then mainly to say that during the campaign and the count last year he talked with other candidates as well.

Other than that, his silence on the main allegation against him and the President has been ear-splitting.

The administration may wish to turn down the decibel level, but the only way to do that is to find Garcillano. If it had acted earlier, to meet the opposition's demand that Garcillano face the five-panel hearing in Congress on the alleged wiretapping, a strenuous effort to locate Garcillano may have sufficed to mute public suspicion. Now it is too late. Nothing less than finding the controversial election expert himself will allay public doubt about Garcillano's flight.

For the President's defenders, that is the crux of the matter: Garcillano's flight looks like an admission of the President's guilt. If for that reason alone, the administration must let Garcillano surface.

The President's crisis is essentially one of legitimacy. The best venue for presenting the strongest evidence against the President, and for the President to present her strongest defense, is through the impeachment process. But if Garcillano remains missing from the equation, the numbers will never add up. If Garcillano never appears as a witness, the legitimacy issue will remain. If Garcillano remains inaccessible for inexplicable reasons, the crisis will fester, regardless of the administration's wiliest impeachment-case maneuvers.

In the public view, Garcillano is already a fugitive—if not from justice, then from the truth.

Solon wants to tax drinking water

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

PEOPLE are talking about "The Great Raid" and "The Great Escape." Not the new movie with Cesar Montano in its cast or the old one starring Steve McQueen. They are talking about the raid conducted by police and military intelligence agents on a house in San Mateo, Rizal, where they seized important evidence on cheating in the last elections; and the escape of former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano who is said to have been caught in the "Hello Garci" tapes as one of the prominent personalities involved in a plot to cheat in the elections.

The speculation is that both capers—the raid and the escape—could not have been successfully accomplished without the knowledge, approval and help of Malacañang. The squatter there, after all, would be the one to benefit from the seizure of evidence on poll cheating and from the escape of Garci.

The Criminal Investigation and Detection Group of the police (CIDG) and the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp) would not have conducted the illegal raid if it had not been ordered by somebody very high up in the government. There was no search warrant, no complaint against the caretaker of the poll evidence. Until now, the CIDG and Isafp cannot explain the basis for the raid and for the seizure of the election returns. The ERs legally belong to the opposition party which, under the law, is entitled to one of the seven copies of every ER. The police should return them immediately. Their caretaker, Segundo Tabayoyong, an expert on questioned documents, has not committed any crime.

The excuse given by the CIDG and Isafp for the raid was that the owner of the house asked for their help. If that was the only reason, wouldn't the local police have been enough? Why was the CIDG involved? And the Isafp, too? Really, only somebody very powerful could have ordered the raid.

Similarly, Garcillano could not have escaped without the help, financial and otherwise, of Malacañang. He could not have afforded the fee for the charter of the Learjet to Singapore. And he could not have gotten through immigration without the help of somebody very influential who must have opened the right doors for him and greased the right hands.

Everybody was looking for Garci. There was an alert for him. There had been talk for quite some time that he would escape to another country. Yet, he was still able to escape. He could not have done that, not unless some government officials were incompetent or were part of a conspiracy.

The consensus is that Malacañang is getting so desperate as to resort to illegal acts to cover its tracks. For the web of accumulating circumstantial evidence and testimony from witnesses is tightening the noose around the neck of its illegal occupant.

The tampered election returns, although meant only as evidence in the election protest of former Sen. Loren Legarda against Vice President Noli de Castro, would also show that the votes for the presidential candidates were altered or manufactured to make GMA win. And Garcillano, if found and forced to tell the truth, could mean the end of the GMA regime. No wonder, GMA's minions are risking criminal prosecution to cover Malacañang's tracks. In fact, Garci risks being murdered because of what he knows. He knows too much. But dead men tell no tales.

The lesson here once more is that "the truth will always out." "You can fool all of the people some of the time, and some of the people all the time, but you can't fool all of the people all the time." The more you lie and commit illegal acts to cover your tracks, the more you are caught in the web of your lies. Lies are like a trap. The more you try to wiggle out of them by lying some more, the more the noose tightens. Even experienced and habitual liars are caught. GMA is no exception. The most powerful man in the world, President Richard Nixon, trying to cover up the Watergate burglary, was finally caught in the web of his lies that were exposed in the secret tapes of his conversations in the White House. GMA was caught by secret tapes of her phone conversations with Garci. Nixon resigned the presidency rather than face an impeachment trial. Would that GMA be as statesmanlike as Nixon and do the same thing—resign.

* * *

As if the expanded value-added tax is not enough to squeeze the life out of the people, a congressman has filed a bill to tax—would you believe—drinking water. Yes, House Bill 2899 of Samar Rep. Catalino Figueroa (Lakas-NP) proposes to impose a 10-percent excise tax on bottled water. The excise tax would be in addition to the EVAT. And the House ways and means committee, instead of throwing the stupid bill into the waste basket, has actually started hearings on it last Aug. 16.

Drinking water is a basic necessity. Nobody can continue to live without safe drinking water. In a country where more than one-third of the population has no access to safe drinking water, it is criminal to tax it. Entire communities have fallen ill from drinking contaminated tap water. By his own admission, Figueroa said that bottled water has become a necessity, that it is essential to life. Yet, he wants to put it beyond the reach of the people by imposing an additional tax on it. All for what? So the government will have more money that government officials can steal and use to bribe witnesses and legislators. Perhaps, Figueroa was thinking of the pork barrel of congressmen when he filed the bill.

An excise tax is imposed to curb the consumption of products harmful to health, such as alcohol and tobacco. By slapping such tax on drinking water, is Figueroa saying that people should be taxed for wanting to survive? A tax on drinking water, bottled or not, is a tax on a person's right to life.

Seasons

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

SOMEONE told me, some time ago, he was fed up with politics he had stopped minding it. He was not without a sense of outrage over what was happening to the country but he was filled as well with a sense of helplessness and resignation. Media, he said, weren't making things better. They were feeding on political scandal the way sharks fed on blood, churning out blithe observations rather than studious scrutiny. Such was his dismay, or disgust, he ignored the news altogether, preferring to read or watch other things on TV.

I am not completely unsympathetic to him. I do feel that way too, now and then, being assailed by politics, being drowned by news about politics, being up to my neck with the antics of politicians, particularly one GMA, one FVR, one JDV and one horde of monkeys masquerading as congressmen. One imagines that the air, the literal one and the one occupied by TV and radio, would be cleaner without the noises they emit. Silence is preferable to gibberish.

I find the need to look for a breather too, and I greatly mind it when I am listening to live music while drinking my favorite poison, and someone forces his way to my table and insists on talking about politics. Being polite, I do not tell him to bugger off. I do not want to risk an attack of gout just to listen to him. I prefer sweet music and even sweeter musicians. But I make my inattentiveness patently known. Unfortunately, the more ferocious political animals have no instincts to detect this, but that is another story.

I am not completely unsympathetic to my friend's plight, but neither am I completely sympathetic to him. I've heard his sentiments expressed by others, some of them proclaiming with much disdain their utter distaste for politics. "I know nothing about politics," some even say with pride. Never have I seen ignorance admitted with such haughtiness. What can I say? That's the kind of indifference that allows tyranny to thrive. That's the kind of tiredness that allows GMA to prosper.

Who wants to have to talk or stalk politics if they can help it? Who wants to listen to the wailing of the hyenas on TV when they can watch Solar Sports instead? Who wants to get into arguments with people like Ronaldo Puno and Raul Gonzalez (who should be thankful they have not been hit by thunderbolts for mouthing the words "law" and "morality") when they can have more pleasant conversations with friends, real or imagined, and lovers, legitimate or illegitimate? Indeed, who wants to suffer the inconvenience, or even danger, of having to brave the heat and smell of sweaty bodies to protest the usurpation of Malacañang by an illegitimate President when they can have the luxury or bliss of an air-conditioned room, drowning themselves in the heat and smell of a sweaty body while surrendering to the usurpations of love?

No one wants to if she or he can help it. But that is exactly the problem: Neither you nor I can help it.

I can't help it, first off, because I am a parent. I can't help it because as a parent I am compelled by a force more powerful than the Constitution, which is the power of instinct, the instinct even of animals to protect their young, to give my kids a better world, or one at least that will not prey upon them. I do not want them to go through the same ordeal my generation did just to be able to free this country from a yoke.

I still remember what my mother used to tell me each time I told her not to worry when I went away with toothbrush, an extra T-shirt and books in hand and did not come home for a day or so. This was shortly before martial law, when I would spend the night in clandestine places. Of course, she had to worry, she said, she was a parent. Wait till I became a parent, she said.

In my case, it was a little easier because my father was already dead. He died way back when I was in second year high school, and I was helping put bread on our table by writing for a national magazine in my last year in college. I could always excuse my disappearances as running after a story. My friends had to sneak out and have violent confrontations with their fathers afterward. Some were told to exile themselves permanently, which, of course, was never meant; some were even reported by the parents to the authorities, like drug addicts to be "rehabbed."

My mother's words ring in my ears today like an LSS, or last song syndrome. If you're a parent, you would know what it means for your 16-year-old to not be home at 10 p.m. on a weekday in these perilous times. One is tempted to say that at least today the kids have cell phones. But if you're a parent, you would also know that, for a reason that is not always explainable by alien abduction, your kid's cell phone always seems to develop low batt at those ungodly hours, which makes him incommunicado. Looking back, I wonder how our parents managed to cope with that scale of worry at the time. I know I'll probably get a heart attack if I had to worry every time about my kid inhabiting a place that could be raided anytime.

I was an activist then, but I seriously doubt that many activists then would want their kids now to face the same dangers they did. Particularly those who went underground or to the hills, and more particularly those who were caught and tortured, or who saw friend and kin in the morgue or in the battlefield with half their faces blown off. You fight in your time to earn a measure of peace for the next generation. I fight even at this time to earn a measure of peace for my kids.

We do not stop the tyranny now and our kids will have to do it for us. I do not stop this monstrosity now and my kids will have to do it for me.

(To be concluded)

Betrayal of public trust

SOUNDING BOARD

Fr. Joaquin G. Bernas, S.J.

THERE is a battle royal going on as to which impeachment complaint the Committee on Justice should take up.

The line of defense being put up by the President's lawyers is that only Oliver Lozano's complaint should be entertained because anything after Lozano's complaint would be a different second or third complaint prohibited by the Constitution. The Constitution says that only one impeachment proceeding against a respondent may be initiated within one year. In other words, the President's lawyers equate "complaint" with "proceeding."

Let us look at the main pillar of Lozano's complaint. He bases it on "betrayal of public trust." The example he gives of betrayal of public trust is the phone call made to an official of the Commission on Elections, a phone call which the President has admitted with public display of compunction, and for which she confessed "lapse in judgment." And since several phone calls were involved, she as much as admitted multiple lapses in judgment. But is that all that betrayal of public trust means? Is it limited to one example, or can it cover a multitude of other sins? The President's lawyers seem to be saying that Lozano, having given one example, may not give more. Such a stance is worse than just a lapse in judgment; it is an attempt to water down an offense solemnly enshrined in the Constitution.

We must look to the history of the phrase "betrayal of public trust" as it is now found in the 1987 Constitution. It is a phrase not found in the United States Federal Constitution whence our impeachment system originated. It is not found in our 1935 Constitution either, or in the 1973 Constitution. But the 1973 Constitution added "graft and corruption" as another ground for impeachment in order to tighten the screws on misbehaving public officers. Not content with previous texts, however, the 1986 Constitutional Commission added "betrayal of public trust" as another ground for impeachment. Evidently, they wanted to make the screws even tighter. What did the 48 commissioners mean?

Commissioner Ricardo Romulo, in response to a query from Commissioner (later Supreme Court Justice) Florenz Regalado, said that the phrase "betrayal of public trust" was meant to be a catch-all phrase to cover any violation of the oath of office. Commissioner Rustico de los Reyes, who was responsible for the insertion of the screw-tightening phrase, said that it referred to all acts, even if not punishable by statute as penal offenses, which render the officer unfit to continue in office. He enumerated "inexcusable negligence of duty, tyrannical abuse of power, breach of official duty by malfeasance or misfeasance, cronyism, favoritism, etc. to the prejudice of public interest and which tend to bring the office into disrepute." To which Romulo added "obstruction of justice." Expressly excluded, however, were "profanity, obscenity, habitual drunkenness while performing official duty"—perhaps, in the belief that these are understandable macho vices!

Significantly, Commissioner Blas Ople, who had sought to add "manifest and gross disregard of the popular will" as another ground, withdrew his amendment after the Committee explained that such addition would in fact narrow the grounds for impeachment by requiring that the offense be gross. Moreover, Commissioner (former Chief Justice) Roberto Concepcion cautioned that additional particularization would have the effect of weakening the provision under the principle *expressio unius est exclusio alterius*.

To further understand the import of "betrayal of public trust" as a screw tightener, it is important to compare it to how the 1986 commissioners understood "culpable violation of the Constitution." The accepted view in the Commission was that "culpable violation of the Constitution" implied "deliberate intent, perhaps even a certain degree of perversity, for it is not easy to imagine that individuals in the category of these [impeachable] officials would go so far as to defy knowingly what the Constitution commands." Moreover, as Commissioner and now Chief Justice Hilario Davide observed, "betrayal of public trust," as already explained, required much less than culpable violation of the Constitution and, in effect, already included everything in the other enumerated grounds for impeachment!

Having seen the broad meaning of "betrayal of public trust," we next look at what the Constitution prohibits. It prohibits the initiation of more than one "impeachment proceeding." It does not necessarily prohibit more than one complaint. More than one complaint would be prohibited only if the multiple complaints would require more than "one proceeding." But if they can be logically and conveniently combined into one proceeding, there would be no violation of the Constitution.

In the current controversy, the so-called "amended complaint" and the Lopez complaint, both transmitted on the same day to the Justice Committee together with the Lozano complaint, are nothing more than "bills of particulars" to accompany the Lozano complaint. They both elaborate on the one constitutional offense of "betrayal of public trust." For constitutional purposes, therefore, what is being initiated is only "one proceeding involving one complaint but with an extended bill of particulars."

I can understand, however, why the President's defenders argue the way they do. They must realize that if the "bill of particulars" is elevated to the Senate, the President will be tarred and feathered and be made to squirm. I guess we must bemoan the conclusion that the presidential defenders and their client do not wish to face the music.

Davao's harvests

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Carlos Isagani T. Zarate

DESPITE THE not-so-smart pullout of a telecom giant from major sponsorship, last week's Kadayawan Festival in Davao City still proved to be successful or "*bongacious*," as the lead organizer described it. Dubbed as the "Festival of all festivals" in Mindanao, the week-long event, capped by a colorful floral float parade yesterday, showcased not only the city's bountiful harvests of fruits and flora, but also the rich culture and tradition of Mindanao's peoples—the *lumad*, Moro and Christians.

Notwithstanding the security concerns raised by some quarters, the city teemed with local and foreign tourists competing to savor the southern hospitality that only the "City of Durian" offers. Aside from the sounds of gongs, *kulintangs* and other indigenous musical instruments and the scents of fresh flowers like *waling-waling* and the mouth-watering *durian*, there were other revelations in last week's Kadayawan celebration. Among them, the city's budding short-film industry.

Five skillfully created productions by talented and rising Davaoeño filmmakers were entered for Kadayawan's "Puting Tabil Short Film Festival." The films tackled themes like the complex relationship among friends ("24 Hours," by Camboy Productions, formed by students from the Philippine Women's College School of Fine Arts and Culture); the dilemna of a "feel-good *elitista*" ("Hulagway" by AdDunay Productions, formed by students from the Ateneo de Davao University); the celebration of a "family's triumph over life's infinite trials" ("Lata," by Gruppo SaliDavao and gatchi&gatchi productions); people with diverse cultures confronted by the triad of love, faith and betrayal ("Sangan-daan," by PLUM Productions, formed by students from the University of Mindanao); and the gripping travails of a mother pushed into insanity by the destructive lifestyles of her seven children, whose fathers are of different nationalities ("Tandog sa Baryo Sanghay" by Phat J Productions).

During the Aug. 18 Awards Night, "Tandog sa Baryo Sanghay," written and directed by GMA Davao news reporter John Paul Seniel, emerged as a runaway winner, bagging the awards for best picture, best director, best screenplay and best actress, among others. Seniel, whose debut work "Torture" grabbed major awards in the 2003 Davao Guerilla Filmmaking, is also the director of the 2004 opus "Amuma, Hands for Nobody," now an official entry to the 2005 New York International Independent Film and Video Film Festival slated in November this year.

One can readily admire the remarkable skills, depth and talents shown by the people behind these indie short films. In this sense, all the five films are winners in their own respective right.

* * *

In the past, especially during the celebration of the Kadayawan Festival, it was not uncommon to see piles and piles of *durian* husks in places where these fruits were sold or processed into candies. Sunstar Davao reported that during peak season, garbage collectors collect up to 10 truckloads of *durian* husks every night. To many *durian* eaters, the thorny *durian* husks are useless. That "uselessness" may now be a thing of the past.

Last week, while scouting for souvenirs to be given to the speakers of our Kadayawan IBP continuing legal education seminar, lawyer Chin-Chin Barrios-Talaver stumbled on a *durian*-smelling paper lampshade at the Mindanao Trade Expo in the Central Bank Convention Center. If there is a *durian*-flavored ice-cream, why not a *durian*-smelling paper, she wondered. But, no, the paper lampshade and other paper products that she saw were not just laced with *durian*; they were, in fact, made out of *durian* fibers.

The *durian* fiber-made products were launched only Aug. 10 by the Kababayen-an alang sa Teknolohiya nga Haum sa Kinaiyahan ug Kauswagan (Katakus or Women for the technology that is appropriate for the environment and development). Katakus is an NGO that focuses on the promotion of "sustainable agriculture through integrated systems of organic agricultural production and use of technology among subsistence farmers" in the Davao region.

"*Maraming* fiber *ang durian; ang ibang materials konti lang—ang* cogon *mga* 20 percent *lang ang ma*-extract *na* fiber. *Sa durian, mga* 75 percent," Betty More, of Katakus, told journalist Stella Estremera of Sunstar Davao. She said that fibers extracted from *durian* can be stored for a longer time compared to those from other indigenous materials, thus, giving women reserved materials when *durian* is not in season. While they still use fibers extracted from cogon, bananas and abaca, she admitted that they found in *durian* an additional and cheaper yet bigger source of raw material.

Katakus' products, although still in small quantity, are now exported to other countries.

So, for *durian* lovers, the next time you eat *durian*, don't just throw its husks away. Think of them as another dollar earner.

* * *

Multi-awarded fictionists Dr. Macario Tiu and poet Don Pagusara, both literature professors of the Ateneo de Davao University, once again bagged the country's most coveted awards in literature: the Don Carlos Palanca Memorial Awards. Tiu's "Balyan," a tale about a lumad shaman, won first prize in the Cebuano short story category; Pagusara's "Mga Landas ng Pangarap," a story about an FQS activist, won first prize in the Pilipino category. "Bangka sa Kinabuhi," which tells the life of Moro women in the Liguasan Marsh and also written by Pagusara, won second prize in the Cebuano short story category.

* * *

Comments at kar_laws@yahoo.com or karlos_z23@hotmail.com

1983 and 2005

THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III

IN 1983, on the anniversary of the Plaza Miranda bombing, Ninoy Aquino came home. The man who was hustled down the side stairs of the airport tube where his China Airlines flight had docked was a man far different from the ebullient senator of 1971.

He was a man purified of any suspicion of self-interested action; a proven patriot. He had returned not even to fight, but to try and make peace with the dictatorship and hopefully make it relax its grip. Marcos returned his offer of reconciliation with a bullet. Except that Marcos said it did not come from him, but from the communists.

In the presence of 2,000 soldiers sent to meet the exiled senator, Ninoy was taken down by three Philippine Constabulary officers; and before his feet touched the tarmac, he was shot in the back of the head. The nation was stunned, first into terror and then into rage.

From the first timid testing of the waters by the people who lined up to view Ninoy's remains at his old home at Times Street, and who followed his bier in the millions, it was apparent that 1983 would be a real *annus horribilis* for the Marcoses.

A few days after Ninoy's death, oppositionists formed JAJA-Justice for Aquino, Justice for All and declared:

"We demand the immediate resignation of President Marcos, the entire Cabinet, the Executive Committee, members of the Batasang Pambansa, and top generals of the military. A responsible transition government composed of men and women of unquestionable integrity should be established to pave the way for the realization of genuine democracy in this country."

These objectives would remain the aim of the opposition from then on. In no time, these objectives and sentiments catalyzed the formation of what came to be known as the cause-oriented groups and the partisans of the parliament of the streets.

The gap left by the refusal of the middle and professional classes to take part in sordid—not to mention, dangerous—political affairs was now closed. From one end of the political spectrum to the other was a solid band of opposition to the murderous dictatorship.

Marcos swiftly resorted to his old trick of divide and rule, but the more he sought to divide, the more convinced the opposition became that he was weakening and could not rule.

Writing after Edsa, Ma. Serena Diokno summed up this period as "a movement of unity and struggle—of oneness in opposition to the Marcos regime, its authoritarian apparatus, and its abuse of the Filipino people; of differences within a movement colored by various shades of political understanding, at times sadly marked by personal political ambition; and of unrelenting struggle against a dictatorship propped up by the government of the United States."

Indeed, it took some groups longer to get over their caution in dealing with others. But the Church was firmly in place in the battlefront. Jaime Cardinal Sin directed the operations from the time he officiated at Ninoy's funeral Mass, where he bestowed the martyr with the honors befitting a head of state.

In retrospect, this process seems to have been a continuous march, along city streets lined with buildings from where supporters rained yellow confetti, to the tune of *ati-atihan* drums and the wailing of police sirens. In reality, it was a series of skirmishes and crises, of exhilarating advance and painful retreat and regroupment.

It's defining events were summed up by Diokno as, "the early conflict between the Church's call for national reconciliation and the people's demand for the removal of Marcos, the agonizing period of deciding whether or not to take part in the parliamentary (Batasan) elections in May 1984, the failed Bayan congress… in May 1985, and the founding of the BANDILA…" Through it all, the quibbling among oppositionists would continue, without stop, but also without any harmful effects. The movement was unstoppable, even by the pettiness of some of those who comprised it.

It embarked on efforts learned from leftist teach-ins, forums, mass actions like marches and boycott campaigns against crony businesses; and the use of striking symbols and slogans with the color yellow. Its members continued to quarrel among themselves over means and even ends.

They quarreled about the ideal form of transitional government and its legal details, about the need or folly of including the US bases as an issue, and about the restructuring of political processes, if not society itself. Taking a cue from Ninoy's arrival statement, Cardinal Sin proposed, on Sept. 23, 1983, an eight-member national council composed of four representatives from within and outside the government. This was the opening salvo of the Church's effort to steer the irresistible forces of change into peaceful and orderly channels.

On Jan. 7 and 8, 1984, the Congress of the Filipino People (Kompil) was held, in an attempt to unify the opposition groups. It was composed of moderates, and attempted to answer two questions: should the "Marcos Resign" movement go on, and, if Marcos ever quit, who should be entrusted with running the government? By 1986, people had decided that the time for involvement had come precisely because the things the Left despised but which the moderates valued—order, decency, the safety of property—were in grave peril. They, who were leery of politics, had taken over it completely, to restore everything to the way it was, and put politics and power again in its subordinate place.

Where is today's Kompil? Or can such an assembly be repeated today? That is the question. But it's well to remember that apathy was a genuine worry to the committed then, as it is today. Then the leaders on both sides were as notorious as they seem to be today.

'It's the economy, stupid'

COMMENTARY

Rigoberto D. Tiglao

A CLICHÉ that may seem to be. But other than the weaknesses of the charges against President Macapagal-Arroyo, it's one answer to the question why the Gloria-*Ibagsak* crowd—despite all the sophisticated and well-funded plots and propaganda it has made against her—can't prod a People Power revolt.

The economy is important in understanding our past two Edsas. Because of massive Marcos cronyism, the economy was in crisis by 1984, making almost inevitable the first Edsa in 1986. On the other hand, Erap's drinking and *mahjong* sprees kept him away from decisively leading the economy out of the Asian-wide financial crisis that started in 1997. The political crises that broke out under Marcos and Estrada, because of entirely non-economic reasons—the Ninoy assassination in 1983 and Chavit Singson's exposé in 2000—only further weakened the troubled economies of each period. These, in turn, deepened the political crisis that confronted them, resulting in their ouster.

In contrast, despite the plots against the President since 2001, the economy in the past four years under her has become stronger.

Take a look at the figures: the rate of economic growth, measured by the growth of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), and inflation rates, in percentages:

President	Average GDP Growth Rate (%)	Average Inflation Rate (%)
Aquino	3.8	10.4
Ramos	3.7	7.6
Estrada	2.8	6.0
Arroyo	4.0	5.2

The economy registered its highest growth under Arroyo's presidency compared to the preceding three administrations; inflation, the lowest. There is an unmistakable economic momentum. Growing only 1.3 percent in the first quarter of 2001 when she assumed office, the GDP growth rate has accelerated to 6.4 percent by the first and second quarters of 2004, slowed down this year only by the oil crisis.

Jobs generated annually, measured by year-on-year increases in the number of employed persons, have seen the biggest number under Arroyo:

President (No. of years)	Total during term (000)	Average per year (000)
Aquino (6)	4,800	800
Ramos (6)	3,774	686
Estrada (2+)	405	162
Arroyo (3.5)	3,643	1,214

The economic growth under Ms Arroyo has helped the poorest. Poverty incidence has gone down, from 27.5 percent in 2000 to 24.7 percent in 2003. This means 1 million Filipinos getting out of the poverty quagmire in just three years. Wealth distribution has also improved, as shown in the percentage changes in the shares of the different economic groups in the national income. Under Arroyo's watch, the percentage share of the richest 10th decile has declined by 1.5 percent, with the nearly corresponding increases in the share of the poorest deciles.

But it's not that the rich are being terribly impoverished under Gloria's term. Take the case of our stock market's performance, compared to those of others in the region. We're the third best performer this year. In contrast, massive stock manipulations involving the SSS and other state funds occurred in 2000, triggering a near-meltdown of the bourse.

Country	2004 Price Index	2005 May Price Index	Growth (%)
Indonesia	1,000	1,088	8.8
Korea	895	970	8.3
RP	1,822	1,929	5.8
Singapore	2,066	2,161	4.6
Malaysia	907	861	-5.1
HK	14,230	13,867	-2.6

The two economic values that react immediately to political disturbances—the exchange and interest rates—behaved quite differently during Erap's and now Gloria's troubled months.

- During Erap's crisis that started mid-2000, the peso's exchange rate fell from P43 to the dollar to P51, a huge P8-loss in our currency's value, foreboding a chaotic period unless Estrada was ousted. That certainly convinced the elite to junk him ASAP. In contrast, since the current turmoil started in June, the peso's exchange rate has held steady at the P56-level. This, despite the fact that crude oil prices have zoomed up to their highest levels in 20 years, putting tremendous pressure on the peso's value.
- Interest rates, represented by the 91-day Treasury bill rates, remained high at the 10-percent levels in the months before Estrada's fall. In contrast, this year, T-bill rates have even softened, from 7.7 percent at the start of the year to the latest 5.8 percent.

And the coming months?

Business firms are expecting that the political storm will be ending soon.

A Bangko Sentral poll of 839 firms—that's more than double the 300 respondents in Pulse Asia's surveys—showed that businessmen are forecasting a better business climate in the fourth quarter, with the outlook index for that period measured at 18.3 percent. This is a reversal of the negative (i.e., pessimistic) 10.4-percent index for the third quarter of the year. (This newspaper's Aug. 19 article on this poll got it all wrong, with its headline: "BSP survey shows bearish outlook.")

It's the economy under Gloria which is helping thwart all the *Ibagsak* plots.

(Secretary Tiglao is the head of the Presidential Management Staff. He was an INQUIRER *columnist before he joined government in 2001. His views in this column are his own and should not be construed as official views of the Office of the President.—Ed.)*

THEY SAID

Dark noon

"How can we endure our countrymen living that way? It was noontime but I thought it was midnight. You'll never see daylight in that tunnel."

—Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales, recalling the sight of a poor family that was taking shelter inside a half-kilometer tunnel near Maricaban

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Eradication of 'jueteng' must start with Church

I TOTALLY agree with the views of the new archbishop of Manila. The moral values of the Filipino people have changed. The majority has accepted that to wiggle out of the "hard life," it is okay for a person to be corrupt and to amass wealth while in public service or, for that matter, in any activity that he or she does.

Perhaps, it is high time the Church ministered to the spiritual needs of the Filipino people instead of trying to fix the political situation by becoming politicians themselves.

As far as *jueteng* is concerned, perhaps, the Church could start by rejecting contributions coming from people known to be jueteng operators. It is common knowledge that almost all town fiestas in the Philippines are bankrolled by money from jueteng. That is how deep into our culture jueteng has become etched, so that it is no longer an easy matter to eradicate. But it has to start somewhere and that "somewhere" is the Church.

—PERCIVAL CALBES,
9811 Sycamore Ave.,
Fontana, CA 92335, USA

Media exaggerate the negative, downplay the positive

I APPRECIATE the observation of Solita Monsod on mass media's role in the present crisis. (PDI, 7/23/05) The media exaggerate the negative but fall short in projecting the positive. There is obvious bias against the government, especially the President. The media readily dwell on the shortcomings and mistakes of the government rather than appreciate what it has been doing and has done for the people. The media preside over the daily trial of the President by publicity and have assumed the role of jury and executioner.

I believe that a great majority of our people want peace and stability and economic progress under the present government, more than the uncertainties that could come with a new government.

If GMA resigns, various interest groups will rush in to fill the vacuum and will not allow the constitutional successor to sit as president. If Noli de Castro gets to sit as president, they will proceed to work for his resignation and will not stop until he also resigns. For the opposition, it will be much easier to prey on De Castro.

My impression is that the media do not care much about the nation's interest. They would readily attend any of the opposition's press conferences even just for trivialities. Many times in the past, the mass media broadcast reports on rallies like they were another Edsa revolution. But news readers and TV viewers found out later that only a small crowd came, and most of them were the same group of paid "people power" from the slums of Metro Manila.

For the media, national interest is not that important anymore. It's the ratings game. I appeal to the responsible sectors of mass media organizations to stop agitating our people. We have suffered too much already.

—ODY LUMANGLAS,
ody_lumanglas@yahoo.com

Obstructionists in justice dep't

INQUIRER readers wondered whatever happened to the $2-million bribery complaint versus Hernando Perez, which was filed in 2002.

The INQUIRER's follow-up article in its July 20, 2005 issue chronicles the arduous process that dedicated public servants are compelled to hurdle by their own bosses!

Predictably, former acting Justice Secretary Merceditas Gutierrez offered plausible, perhaps legal, excuses—but of dubious credibility—for her role on the matter.

Incumbent Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez did his share—a shameful array of personal pique and malicious dilatory maneuvers (such as "to hold it so we can study it"), including the tardy responses to the Ombudsman's requests.

These excuses from our loquacious top legal executive may not even be legal, much less plausible, and least of all credible.

With obstructionists such as these government officials, who needs enemies of the state?

—ALFREDO V. ASUNCION,
93 Castrillo St.,
Barangay Ugong Norte, QC

Nothing said of GMA getting P300 million

THIS is in reaction to the headline "Captain says Garci said GMA got P300M." (PDI, 8/11/05)

I listened intently to the testimony of Capt. Marlon Mendoza and to the questions and comments of the senators, so I know that he said no such thing! What he said was that he heard Garcillano say that "Bong Pineda already gave P300 million to support President Macapagal-Arroyo's success in the election." I'm sure the videotape, or the affidavit that he read during the Senate hearing, will bear me out on this.

In other words, the identity of the recipient was not mentioned by the captain. The money could have been given to GMA's party or campaign machinery or to Garcillano himself and other Comelec officials.

The above headline, which was apparently biased or malicious, must have misled countless people who saw it but were unable to read the related story.

—BRIGIDO DOMINGO

THE INTENT of the banner headline was to indicate that Capt. Marlon Mendoza's testimony about the P300 million was hearsay.—**Ed.**

Inability to be honest a national weakness

OUR current political crisis is the consequence of our inability or unwillingness to be honest with ourselves: seeing things the way we want them to be is our weakness. Our President has been found to be less than honest, but because she is pretty and an economics degree holder, we raise so many clever excuses for keeping her in place.

Also, we have a system that gives us lawmakers and enforcers to protect us, but they seem more confused than enlightened about their role as protectors of national integrity. In fact, they seem unable or unwilling to accept the fact that the crisis—a persistent nuisance—has been hurting us all because of immature leadership. If they can't recognize the signs that indicate they must start taking remedial measures before things get out of hand, how can they be effective as "protectors"? Will they move only after the damage has already been done?

The enforcers say they are apolitical, but the excuse does not serve the purpose for which they were put in place. Indeed, if they continue allowing the problems to linger because of clever excuses, it must mean they are merely playing blind to the political deception. In which case, the people will be within their rights to do something to protect themselves from insensitive and deceitful leaders. That means "people power," if it does happen again, cannot be called "illegal or "unconstitutional." No one, least of all the deceitful leaders, can be above the collective will of the people.

The excuse to "unite so we can move on" is certainly a clever attempt to evade the issue. Worse, that the President has been meeting with various sectors of society for the purpose of buying loyalties is an act that insults the people. It isn't just immoral; it also must be corrected as soon as possible—when the current leadership is replaced.

It seems our present crop of leaders is not mature enough to recognize that dishonesty in office keeps us from progressing. The survey results have said that a large majority of the people no longer trust our President. But clever excuses keep coming, even from supposedly respectable personalities, to justify her continued stay in Malacañang. Perhaps, we are not aware that we have been supporting lies instead of truths? Perhaps, we have leaders who are afraid of the truth?

—ERNESTO K. MAGTOTO,
ernestomagtoto@yahoo.com

Words can't refute what the eyes see

WHENEVER I hear grandiose pronouncements made by certain politicians that things are finally starting to inch ahead in the Philippines—socially, politically or economically—I walk outside my front door, lean over my balcony and survey the human activity unfolding in the nearby makeshift market to note otherwise.

The same kids are running around, malnourished and out of school. The same jobless "standbys" idling and slouching around with nary a care as if time stands still. The same drug pushers and addicts up to their usual tricks. The same women having babies and struggling to raise them properly. The same men drinking away their few precious pesos. The same "Bombay" offering high-interest loans. The same guys sneaking across roofs, stealing electricity. The same men pushing wooden trolleys filled with recyclable scrap.

And there are the same eradicable stench of rubbish and raw sewage; the same leaking pipes wasting barrels of water; the same vain attempts to be a Western-style singer or dancer.

I've been living in the middle of a squatter community in Quezon City since December 2001. No, I'm not a white missionary or an aid worker or an American. Just a foreign UP student. How the poor progress or develop—or how they don't—is the truest indicator of any culture's "getting ahead." Until your so-called leaders systematically solve the gross inequalities and injustices of human poverty, all your concrete bunker malls, all your flashy advertising, all your media hoopla, analysis and "stats-crunching," all your parading politicians and actors add up to diddly-squat. Filipinos are being subjected to the most pernicious of propaganda, all of which is 100-percent unadulterated bulls--t.

I don't believe the claims of this or that general, politician, professor, actor, priest or businessperson as the final word. I believe more what I see. And what I see is mostly ugly. It's less than zero. Go experience your wasteland for yourself. It's just outside your door.

—ANDY MCKENZIE,
andyzie@yahoo.com.au

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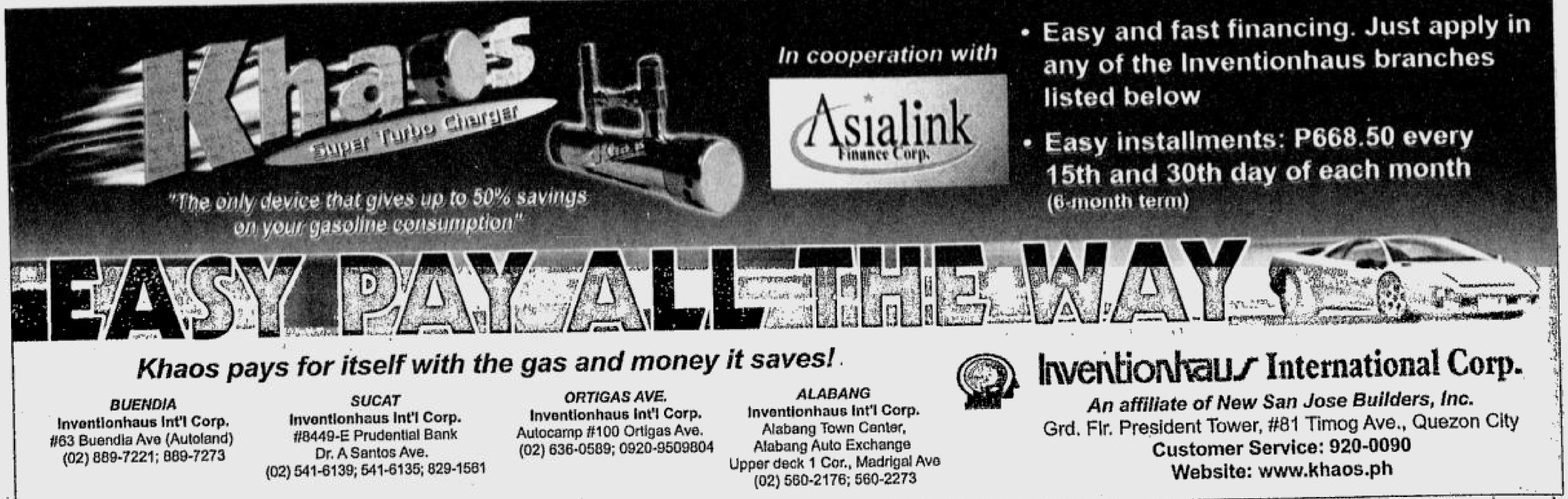
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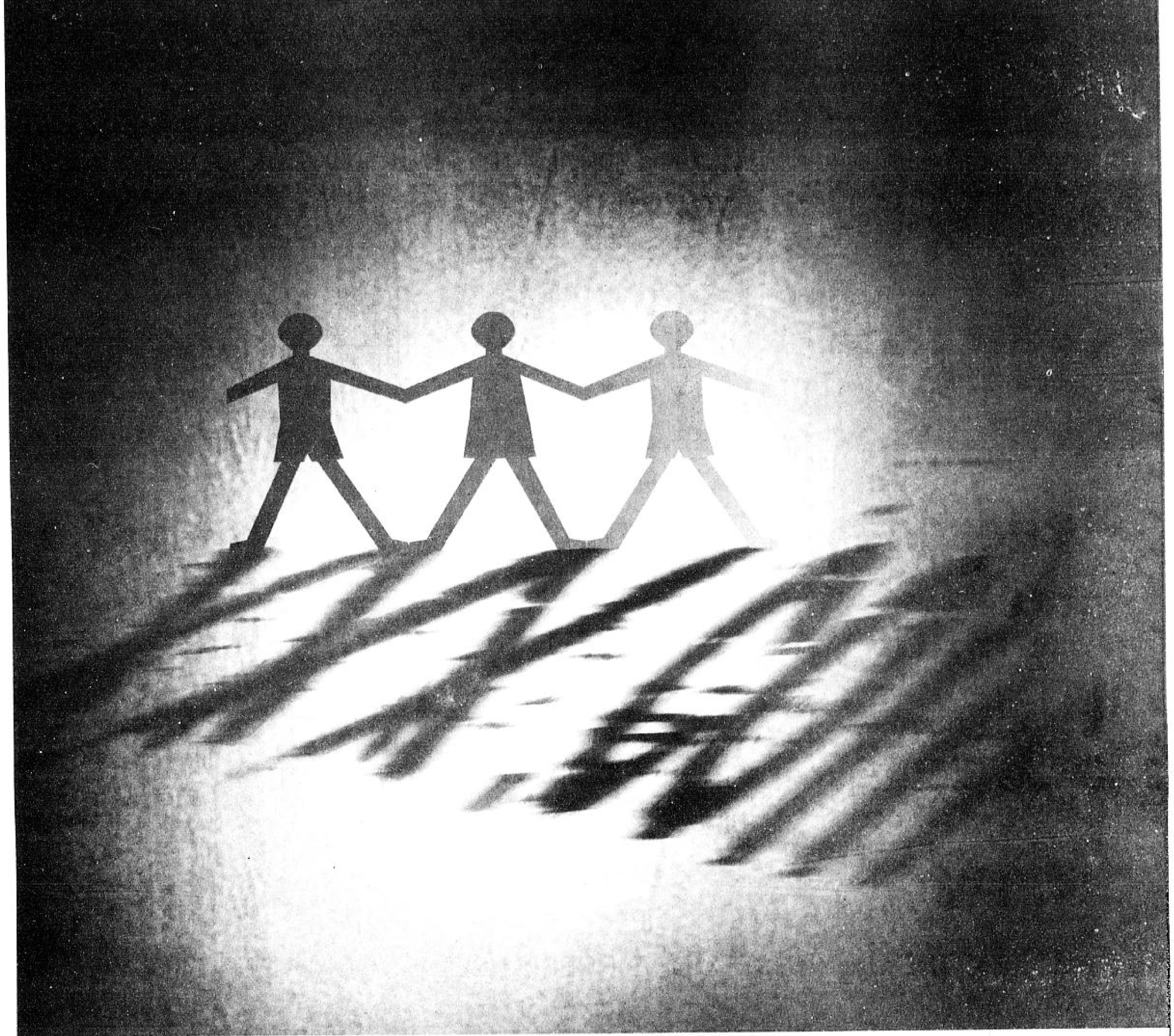

The Internet is a very useful tool, but in the wrong hands, it has become a threat to children in the Philippines. Child pornography on the Internet has expanded dramatically in recent years. Although not all children have access to the Internet, children in the Philippines can fall prey to the advances of sexual predators online and off. **But all is not lost.** You can help pull the plug on child pornography. By simply donating, you can help UNICEF in its campaign against child pornography.

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Visayas oil exploration alarms fishers

By Blanche S. Rivera

FISHERMEN and environmentalists yesterday raised the alarm on a joint oil exploration being conducted by two foreign firms in a protected seascape in the Visayas. They cited the danger posed to marine life in the sanctuary and the threat to the livelihood of small fishermen.

The militant fisherfolk group Pamalakaya said the exploration activity being done by the Canadian firm Forum Energy Corp. (Forum) and the Japanese Exploration Corp. (Japex) in Tañon Strait, declared a protected area located between Negros and Cebu provinces, could reduce fish catch by as much as 600,000 tons annually in the next 10 years.

Editho Namion Jr., Pamalakaya-Negros secretary general and spokesperson of Negros Fishers Forum, said the oil exploration that started in May has already affected at least 8,350 fishermen in San Carlos and Escalante cities in Negros Occidental alone.

The fishermen have reported catch falling from at least five kilos a day to a kilo or two the past two months.

Pamalakaya said Forum and Japex had started implementing a fish ban in the Tañon Strait. Those caught fishing within the exploration area would be fined from P20,000 to P60,000.

"Even when they allow us to fish again, there would be no more left to catch. The reefs are already being destroyed," Namion told the INQUIRER in Filipino.

He said the Environmental Management Bureau in Central Visayas has declared that the Japex and Forum do not need to secure an environmental compliance certificate (ECC) for exploration activities because the activity does not threaten the environment.

Andrea Bautista, who used to manage the World Wildlife Fund's marine sanctuary project in Tañon Strait, has expressed concern that the oil explorations would drive away cetaceans in the strait, which is known for frequent dolphin and whale sightings.

She said the seismic surveys and underwater sounds that would be produced during the exploration could cause the air bladders of marine mammals to burst.

The Department of Energy has granted a seven-year exploration contract to Forum and Japex worth $10 million. Tañon Strait, which the DOE said could have around one billion barrels of oil reserves, is the first exploration site, followed by Cebu Strait, according to Pamalakaya.

The government maintains 15 service contracts for oil and gas explorations throughout the country, Pamalakaya national chair Fernando Hicap said.

Environment Secretary Michael Defensor yesterday said he would like the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to have more say in the approval of permits for oil and gas explorations particularly in protected areas and seascapes.

"We really should determine as early as the exploration stage whether we would allow firms to tap the area once explorations show that there are oil reserves because it would be hard to debate and fight about it when you already have positive identification and you are ready to develop," Defensor told the INQUIRER in a phone interview yesterday.

He said it is the DOE that grants the permit to conduct exploration activities while the DENR merely ensures that the firms follow the guidelines set by the Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau.

"The problem is that they would allow the exploration, and then later on, when it's positive, that's when the firms would have to get an ECC," Defensor said.

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Seminar speakers are as follows: Danilo V. Fausto, president of DVF Dairy Farm; Katrina Sanvictores, head of SME trade finance of Export Bank; Sosimo Laylo, business dev. officer of SMC Purefoods, and Danilo Pineda, entrepreneur and author / writer. For details, contact: **LEADING EDGE FORUM FOR EXCELLENCE, Inc.** Tel. 531-0084 or CP 0919-229-9777 / 0915-780-4379.

Congress urged to fast-track ethanol bill

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Amid the scramble for alternative sources of fuel, Congress should fast-track the passing of the ethanol bill to encourage sugar producers to invest in ethanol production, said James Ledesma, administrator of the Sugar Regulatory Administration.

Ledesma said that while there are still apprehensions among sugar planters, there will be a "rush" for ethanol production when investors are assured of returns.

"It's (investing in ethanol) a no brainer," Ledesma told reporters during the recent 52nd annual national convention of the Philippine Sugar Technologists Association (Philsutech) at the Waterfront Hotel here.

He said investment on ethanol has become lucrative because of the soaring prices of fuel in the world market.

Ethanol, which can be produced from sugarcane, is seen as a cheaper substitute to imported fuel. It is also seen as a cleaner fuel compared to fossilized energy sources like diesel and coal.

Ledesma said gasoline with 10 percent ethanol would be cheaper by 40 centavos per liter than pure gasoline. He said the difference would widen if the amount of ethanol is increased.

Bukidnon Rep. Juan Miguel Zubiri has filed a bill that mandates the use of ethanol as transport fuel. A counterpart Senate bill is authored by Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr.

The bill calls for mandatory use of a minimum of 5 percent ethanol in all gasoline use for motor fuel within two years from the passage of the bill into a law, and 10 percent by the end of the fourth year.

Ledesma said the passing of the bill will help develop the local market for ethanol which is a main concern of investors.

He said this is also an incentive to sugar producers who are hesitant to realign their sugarcane production because of increasing mill gate sugar price currently ranging from P860 to P940 per 50-kilo bag.

In a separate interview, Agriculture Secretary Domingo Panganiban said the passing of the bill will "provide confidence" to sugar producers to invest in ethanol production.

He said the rising fuel prices offers opportunity to try new ideas like the use of ethanol, which is already being used in other countries.

Panganiban said mandatory government policy on the use of a mix of ethanol and gasoline will not only be beneficial to sugar producers but other industries as well.

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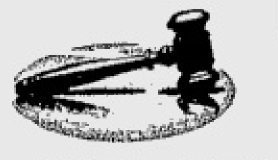

LECTURE SERIES SCHEDULE
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LEGALADVANTAGE

DAY 1: September 3 - Philippine Army Officers Clubhouse at Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City

TIME	TOPIC	LECTURER
8:00 - 10:00am	*The New Vat Law and its Implementing Regulations (2cu)*	Atty. Serafin Salvador, Jr.
10:15 - 12:15pm	*Resolution of Disputes in the Workplace (2cu)*	Dean Froilan Bacungan
1:00 - 3:00pm	*Perspectives on Foreign Investments and Project Finance Activities in the Philippines (2cu)*	Atty. Rocky Reyes
3:15 - 6:15pm	*Updates in Legal Ethics (3cu)*	Justice Hector Hofileña

DAY 2: October 8 - Asian Institute of Management Conference Center, Makati City

TIME	TOPIC	LECTURER
8:00 - 10:00am	*Oral Advocacy and Effective Cross-Examination (2cu)*	Atty. Rogelio Vinluan
10:15 - 12:15pm	*Significant Changes and Amendments in Procedural Rules (2cu)*	Justice Ruben Reyes
1:00 - 3:00pm	*Trial Technique (2cu)*	Atty. Sigfrid Fortun
3:15 - 6:15pm	*Updates in Commercial Law (3cu)*	Judge Sixto Marella, Jr.

DAY 3: November 5 - Philippine Army Officers Clubhouse at Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City

TIME	TOPIC	LECTURER
8:00 - 10:00am	*Dual Citizenship and its Ramifications (2cu)*	Justice Isagani Cruz
10:15 - 12:15pm	*New Rules on Pre-Trial (2cu)*	Justice Noel Tijam
1:00 - 3:00pm	*Taxation Laws & the Corporation (2cu)*	Atty. Edmundo Guevara
3:15 - 6:15pm	*Conciliation & Arbitration of Construction Disputes (3cu)*	Atty. Victor Lazatin

DAY 4: November 26 - Philippine Army Officers Clubhouse at Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City

TIME	TOPIC	LECTURER
8:00 - 10:00am	*Pleading Effectively Before Trial and Appellate Courts (2cu)*	Atty. Katrina Legarda
10:15 - 12:15pm	*Practice and Procedure before Labor Arbiters and the NLRC (2cu)*	Dean Froilan Bacungan
1:00 - 3:00pm	*Use of Forensic Pathology in Crimes against Persons (2cu)*	Dr. Racquel Fortun
3:15 - 6:15pm	*The Lawyer's Pitfalls (3cu)*	Justice Hilarion Aquino

Militant pastor shot in Palawan

CALAMBA CITY—An anti-mining protestant pastor, who also chairs the militant Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) in Palawan, is in critical condition after he was shot by two unidentified men in Puerto Princesa on Saturday.

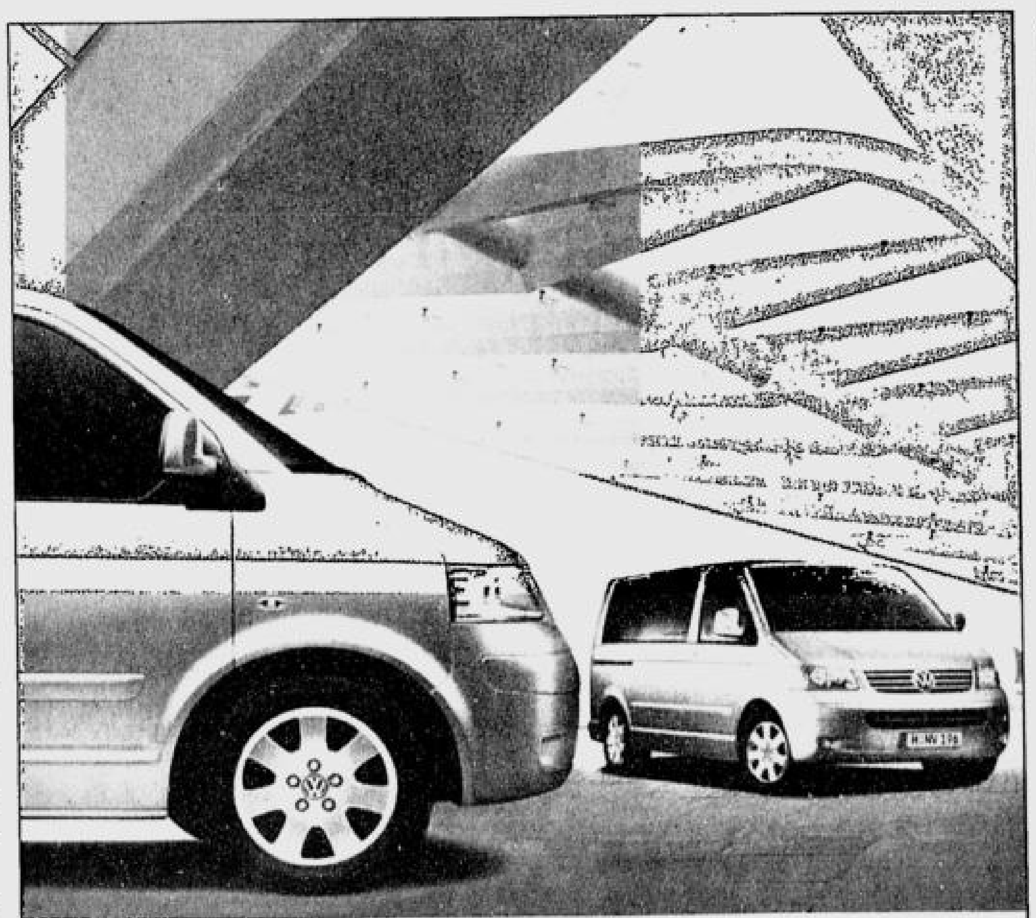
Arman Albarillo, spokesperson of Bayan-Southern Tagalog, identified the victim as Raul Domingo, 35, United Church of Christ in the Philippines pastor.

Domingo was disembarking from a jeepney along the national highway in Barangay San Jose at about noon when two armed men on board a motorcycle approached him and shot him several times, Albarillo said.

Domingo, who is also the secretary general of human rights group Karapatan-Palawan, suffered at least four bullet wounds from a .45-cal. pistol.

Concerned residents immediately brought Domingo to the Adventist Hospital.

"We are really angered and saddened by this incident," Albarillo lamented. *Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*



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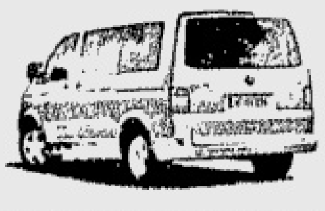

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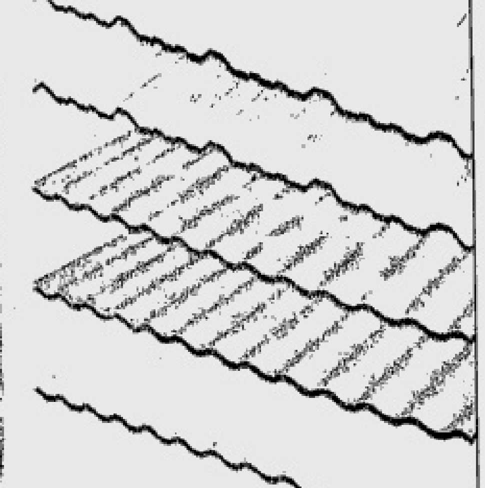

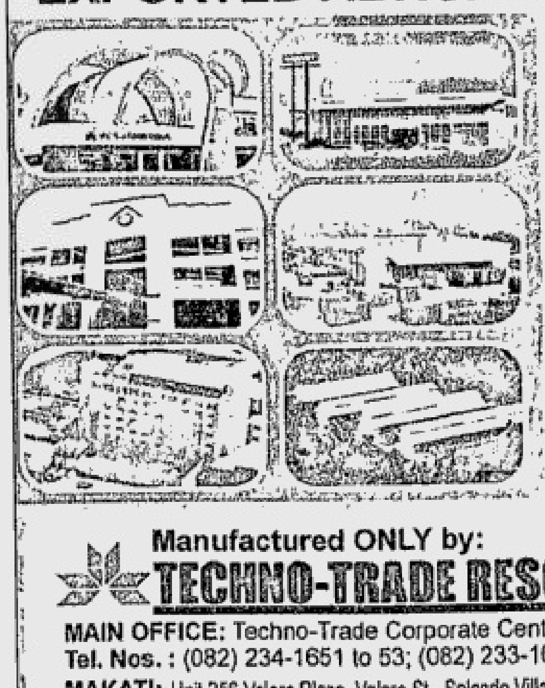

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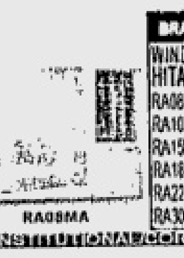

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RA15RC 1.5HP REMOTE W/ TIMER	2,833	2,588	2,062
RA18QMA 2.0 MANUAL W/ TIMER	3,333	3,043	2,424
RA224MA 2.5 HP MANUAL AUTO SWING	3,833	3,498	2,785
RA300MAS 3.0 HP MANUAL AUTO SWING	4,999	4,552	3,622

RA15RC

FOR INSTITUTIONAL/CORPORATE ACCOUNTS CALL 287-0277 [illegible] OPEN ON SUNDAY

Baguio City to develop own water resources

THE BAGUIO Water District recently struck gold when it tapped into a fresh well of water to increase the city's supply. The city has been on water rationing for decades. A government employee tests the odor and taste of the new spring, before the samples are sent out for laboratory tests. VINCENT CABREZA/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

BAGUIO CITY—This mountain city has been allowed to manage and develop its own water resources under a pilot project aimed at empowering local governments which are starved for safe potable water.

With the concurrence of two national water agencies, Mayor Braulio Yaranon on Wednesday issued Executive Order No. 4 creating a Baguio water governance committee.

The city government can now determine how it intends to secure water for its households, said Pamela Gallares-Oppus, Asia-Pacific manager of the International Council for Local Government Initiatives (Iclei).

Iclei steered the city toward water management in 2004, using a grant from the Asian Development Bank.

Yaranon has opposed a bulk water supply project, which the Baguio Water District (BWD) had executed to help secure an additional 50,000 cubic meters of water each day for the summer capital.

He said the city government wanted to protect residents from high water rates and the "questionable quality" of water that the BWD would purchase.

On Wednesday, the BWD board of directors released a notice of award to Benguet Corp., the winning supply bidder.

The BWD owns the water distribution franchise for the city, although it is a member of the new Baguio water governing body.

In April, the Local Water Utilities Administration (LWUA) announced that the condition of Baguio's aquifers restricted the city from drawing more than 14.1 million cubic meters of water to supply 252,386 residents.

Virgilio Bombeta, LWUA water management division manager, said Baguio had always been on the LWUA's top list of "challenges" due to its terrain.

The city is noted for its unusually high rainfall. This is established by a peak flood discharge study made by Aloysius Mapalo of the University of the Cordilleras, who analyzed the floods that hit the mountain city in 2001.

But the city's geological landscape is not predisposed to absorbing or containing surface run-off water that collects after the rains, Bombeta said.

He admitted at the summit that the LWUA might have underrated its initial estimates for limiting Baguio water extractions, and the city could draw "substantially more water from its aquifer."

Bombeta said the LWUA's estimates were based on five hydrogeological studies.

The BWD has instituted a three- to four-day water rationing scheme for households since the 1980s as it fought to supply a daily demand for 60,000 cubic meters of drinking water.

Teresita de Guzman, BWD general manager, told the summit that the utility had corrected the supply shortfall but delays in a LWUA pipe laying project had compelled it to maintain the rationing schedule as it still used old water lines.

The water governance committee is a precursor of the Baguio water governance board, whose creation the city council is slated to legislate into an ordinance, according to Councilor Erdolfo Balajadia, chair of the council committee on environment.

The committee has virtual water policing powers, to help government crack down on water thieves and contain the proliferation of illegal deepwell operations, promote water conservation and exploit or develop new water generating projects in tandem with the National Water Resources Board, the LWUA and the BWD.

The proposed ordinance gives the city government the right to issue permits to water extraction firms and to secure regulation fees for private enterprises that may imperil the water supply.

Oppus said water governance allows the city to reevaluate expensive water-related projects that have not served their purpose. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Coal-fired plant projects in Iloilo face delay

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

MURCIA, Negros Occidental—Construction of two coal-fired power plants in two Iloilo towns may be delayed after the projects failed to get the endorsement of the Western Visayas Regional Development Council (RDC).

"It is going to be difficult for the coal-fired power plant projects to get off the ground given the lack of endorsements," Rafael Coscolluela, presidential adviser for Western Visayas, told reporters during the RDC meeting held at the Mambucal Resort here on Thursday.

He said the lack of endorsement would push back the timetable of the projects from one to two years.

Coscolluela said the RDC endorsement was among those needed in proving that the project had social acceptability, a requirement in getting an environmental compliance certificate (ECC) from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Mirant Global is proposing the construction of a 100-megawatt coal plant in Barotac Viejo town, 64 km north of Iloilo City.

A similar project is being eyed in Concepcion town, 111 km also north of Iloilo City, by DMCI.

But the RDC failed to get a consensus from among its members on the endorsement of the projects.

The social development committee rejected the projects citing health implications on the people. The economic development committee endorsed the "concept and idea" of pursuing the project subject to compliance with regulations and rules. Another committee dealing with infrastructure did not act on the proposal to endorse the project because no government funding is involved.

The projects aim to address the power supply deficit of Panay Island as claimed by energy officials.

But both projects are being opposed by environment groups which cited environmental and health concerns.

Church groups and religious leaders, including two archbishops and six bishops in Western Visayas and Romblon, have issued a pastoral letter opposing the putting up of the plants in their dioceses and archdioceses.

The critics have also questioned government projections and statistics showing an expected deficit in power supply in 2007.

"There is a strong and organized opposition to the coal-fired power plants," admitted Coscolluela. But he said President Macapagal-Arroyo wanted to see problems like these resolved at the local level.

He warned that the delay in the projects could worsen the power shortage in Panay because there are no investors in the energy industry other than those interested in putting up coal plants.

Environmental groups including the People's Response for the Protection of the Environment (Protect) and Visayas for Renewable Energy (V-Free) said there are many investors interested in renewable sources of energy like wind, hydro, solar and geothermal.

They said surplus energy from the geothermal plants in Leyte should be channeled to the Visayas grid instead of exporting it to Luzon, which, they said, already had surplus energy.

Priest given posthumous award for saving lives

LUCENA CITY—Charlito Colendrez, the priest who died while rescuing his parishioners at the height of flooding in Infanta town in Quezon last year, was posthumously awarded during the 127th birthday celebration of President Manuel Luis M. Quezon on Friday.

At the peak of typhoon Winnie on the evening of Nov. 29, Colendrez tied a rope around his torso to anchor himself to a utility pole as he rescued villagers but the raging flashflood carried him and a companion away, causing his death while his companion survived.

Gov. Wilfrido Enverga led the floral offering at the foot of the Quezon Monument at Perez Park here in observance of Quezon Day.

Quezon Bishop Emilio Marquez and several priests officiated Mass at the foot of the bronze monument before the flower offering.

Quezon, first president of the Philippine Commonwealth, was born on Aug. 19, 1878 in the small town of Baler, Tayabas (now Quezon).

At least 16 outstanding Quezonians, including Father Colendrez, were honored.

The Quezon Medalya ng Karangalan is the highest award conferred by the people of Quezon province to its outstanding citizens for exceptional and meritorious achievements. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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Tribal body says Church groups blocking entry of mining firms

BUTUAN CITY—Church-based organizations are the main stumbling block to the entry of mining firms in the mineral-rich Caraga, an official of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) here said.

Domingo Pareja, director of the NCIP-Caraga, said the government's effort to help the ailing regional economy through mining would end up with nothing due to widespread opposition coming from religious groups.

He said indigenous peoples, who live in most of the potential mining areas in the region, had already been "won over" by anti-mining advocates.

"The government seems to have lost in the propaganda and these groups appear to be winning in convincing people to go against mining," Pareja said.

The NCIP is tasked with facilitating applications for mining firms in areas inhabited by indigenous peoples. Mining exploration projects in Caraga cover about 263,262 hectares of tribal land.

Pareja said four multinational firms have expressed interest in the region.

Earlier, Bishop Juan de dios Pueblos of the Archdiocese of Butuan, who is also the convenor of multireligious groups opposed to mining, vowed to block the entry of the mining firms, citing potential environmental dangers.

But he said Pueblos' group was doing more harm than good for the region's ailing economy. He maintained that mining would improve the lives of the impoverished "*lumad*."

In Benguet, religious and political activists joined a prayer rally in Mankayan town to express support for striking Lepanto mine workers.

The rally was held as part of the celebration of the National Minority Week in the Cordillera. It was led by pastors and lay leaders from the United Church of Christ in the Philippines, United Methodist Church, Episcopal Church in the Philippines, and the Pentecostal Church.

Ronald Maslian, spokesperson of the Lepanto Employees Union, said the rally was also meant to call for the management to resume negotiations with the workers, and to reinstate the terminated union officials and members.

Police exercised maximum tolerance during the rally, which drew 700 people. *Franklin A. Caliguid, PDI Mindanao Bureau and Desiree Caluza and Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

ROUNDUP

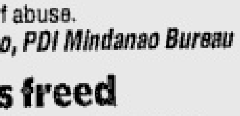
2 soldiers punished

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—At least two soldiers were punished for whipping a motorcycle driver for violation of the government's no-helmet-no-travel policy. Col. Alfredo Cayton, 601st Army Brigade commander, said the soldiers, identified only as Staff Sergeant Papellera and Corporal Palermo, were disqualified from promotion for one year, and received a two-month camp restriction and 15 days of hard labor. The INQUIRER learned that the soldiers, who are members of the Joint Task Force-Gensan, were manning a checkpoint along the national highway here on Thursday when Roberto Marimon, who was not wearing a crash helmet, passed by. The soldiers flagged him down and confronted him. They called up their headquarters and asked that the Land Transportation Office be informed about the erring driver. Since no LTO enforcer was available at that time, the soldiers asked the motorcycle driver to choose between waiting for LTO employees to arrive or getting clubbed in the butt with a piece of wood. Cayton said his men were apparently joking, but they did beat Marimon after he agreed to it. An investigating team that Cayton formed found the soldiers guilty of abuse.
Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Bomb suspects freed

ZAMBOANGA CITY—The three arrested suspects in connection with the Aug. 10 explosion on Campaner Street here that wounded at least five people were freed on Friday after posting bail. Ricardo Cabaron, Western Mindanao state prosecutor, said Adzman Abduraup, Ibnoyatiem Samier and Anggon Alahain, all of Tipo-tipo, Basilan, posted more than P3 million in cash and property bond. Earlier, city police director Supt. Henry Lozanes said the police have a strong case against the suspects. "We have a witness that could attest that these three suspects placed the explosive under a private vehicle," Lozanes said.
Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Firm donates chairs



MAASIM, Sarangani—Pineapple giant Dole Philippines Inc. (Dolefil) donated 350 wooden armchairs to the Colon National High School here on Friday. Gonzalo Palma, Dolefil representative, told students, teachers, and provincial officials that the donation was part of the firm's commitment to help the town residents. Dolefil recently opened a 5,000-hectare pineapple plantation in Barangay Amsipit.
PDI Mindanao Bureau

Transfer of Army general draws mixed reactions

By Joey A. Gabieta
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—The transfer of the controversial Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan out of Eastern Visayas received mixed reactions here.

PALPARAN

For members of militant groups, the transfer is not enough. They insisted that he be prosecuted "for the crimes he has committed against the civilians in Eastern Visayas."

But Southern Leyte Gov. Rosette Lerias said she was saddened by the transfer of Palparan, praising him for a "job well done" in addressing the insurgency in the region.

"I could not do anything about his [impending] transfer. The Armed Forces of the Philippines has [its] own system when it comes to this reassignment of [its] men. I just wish General Palparan well on his next assignment," Lerias, a province mate of Palparan, said.

Samar Rep. Catalino Figueroa earlier told the INQUIRER that President Macapagal-Arroyo had shown him a copy relieving Palparan as commanding general of the 8th Infantry Division, based in Catbalogan, Samar. Palparan was supposed to be transferred to Fort Magsaysay in Nueva Ecija.

Figueroa is one of the most vocal critics of Palparan, accusing him of "massive" violations of human rights against the civilians in the course of his intensified campaign against the communist New People's Army guerrillas in the region.

Palparan, who had served the region since Feb. 10, has denied allegations of military abuses against civilians in the course of his intensive campaign against insurgency, which he vowed to wipe out in six months to year.

Figueroa said Brig. Gen. Bonifacio Ramos would replace Palparan as the next commanding general of the 8th ID. Ramos, like Palparan, also hails from Southern Leyte.

Ramos, who served as Eastern Visayas' top Army officer before the assumption of Palparan in February, told the INQUIRER that he had yet to receive a copy of his supposed reassignment.

Ramos is inspector general at Fort Bonifacio.

Maj. Niniviegh Alcovindas, chief of the 34th Civil Relations Unit based in San Jose district, this city, said he was surprised by Palparan's transfer but stressed that it would not affect the anti-insurgency campaign in the region.

"We are being guided by the campaign plan from our headquarters. That is our 'bible,'" Alcovindas said.

Alex Lagunzad, secretary general of the militant human rights group Sagupa-Sinirangan Bisayas, said that while his group had demanded the transfer of Palparan, it still would want to see him "punished" for alleged human rights abuses committed by soldiers in his command.

"He has to face the consequences of his actions. He must be punished, charged and prosecuted for all his actions against the civilians," Lagunzad told the INQUIRER.

Human rights groups have blamed Palparan's all-out military operation for the massive evacuation of residents in the hinterland villages of Samar, harassment and intimidation of militant groups that were not seen since the martial law years.

At least five militant leaders in the region have been killed while several others were seriously wounded by unknown attackers since March.

All the unresolved killings and failed slay attempts were blamed by the militant groups on the military.

Pampanga farmers ask GMA to stop AFP drive

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—A farmers' group in Pampanga on Sunday appealed to President Macapagal-Arroyo to order an end to military operations in four towns and alleged human rights violations committed by soldiers there.

Joseph Canlas, chair of the Aguman da reng Maglalautang Capampangan, said the violations had been committed by soldiers from the Army's 69th, 58th and 24th Infantry Battalions and the Air Force's 505th Fighter Wing that operate in the eastern towns of Sta. Ana and Mexico and in the western towns of Floridablanca and Porac.

Col. Preme Monta, public information chief of the military's Northern Luzon Command, denied the charges.

Monta said that members of those units were in the areas as special operations teams helping local officials and regional agencies implement the antipoverty program Kabisig Laban sa Kahirapan (Kalahi), he said.

"[The soldiers] are assisting in identifying community development projects. If they negate our efforts by claiming we're committing human rights violations, they're trying to demoralize and undermine our service to the people," Monta said in a phone interview.

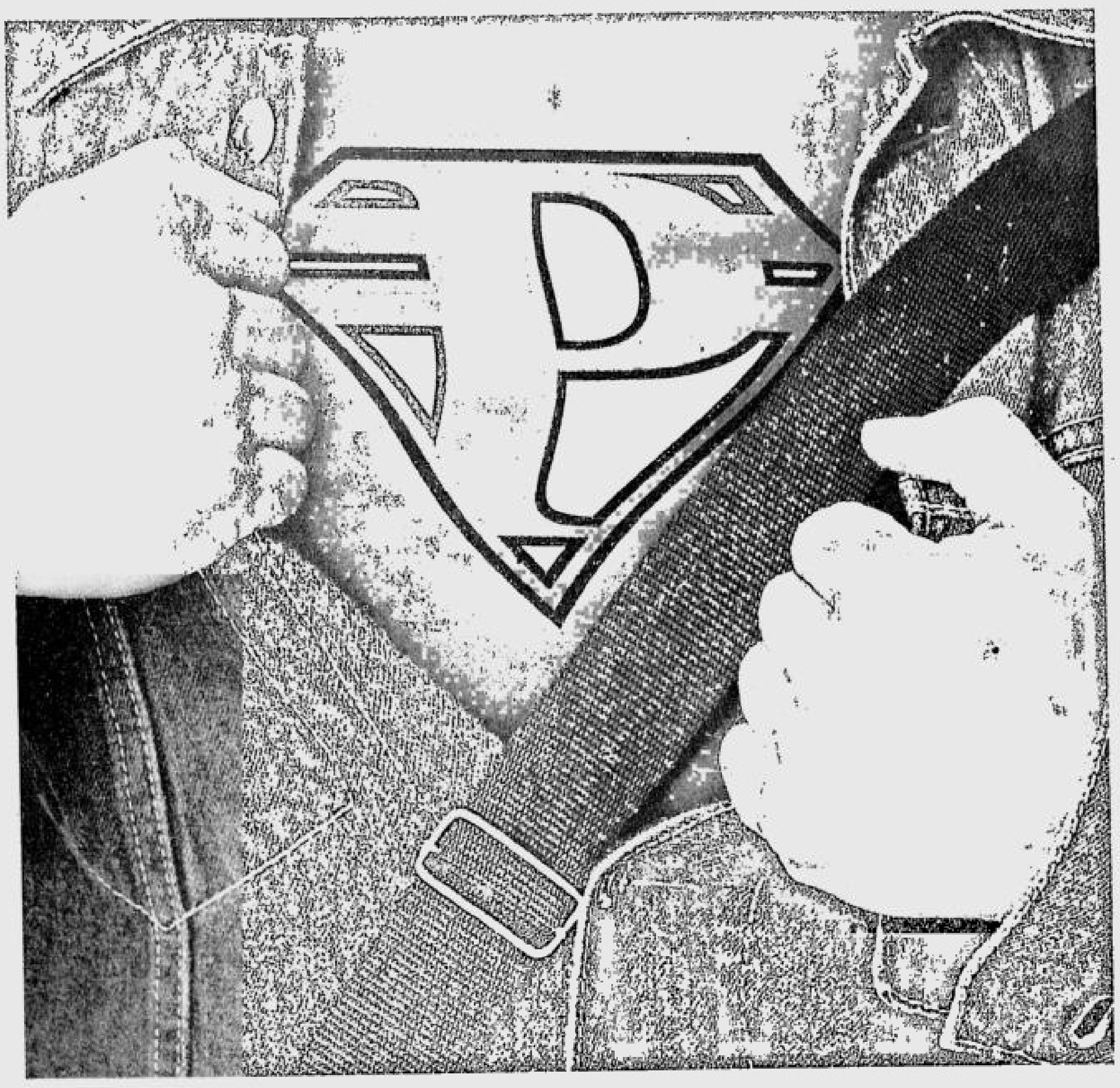
In a statement, Canlas said the military had deployed battalion-sized formations in Barangays Divisoria, San Jose Malino and Pangatlan in Mexico; San Agustin, San Nicolas and Sepung Ilog in Sta. Ana; Nabuklod, Mawacat, San Ramon and Camatchile in Floridablanca; and Planas and Sapang Uwak in Porac.

"Army units have set up detachments in residential areas with some units even occupying daycare centers and barangay halls as their base of operation, and are daily terrorizing local villagers," he said.

The Army, Canlas added, also rounded up at least 47 farmers in Mexico and Sta. Ana between June 12 and July 23, tagging them as members or supporters of the New People's Army or subjecting them to "intense interrogation, harassment and grave threats."

In Divisoria, San Jose Malino, San Agustin and San Nicolas in Sta. Ana, 44 farmers, including their leaders, were coerced to admit that they are rebels and portrayed in news releases by the military as surrenderees, according to the AMC.

Monta said the AMC should "properly report the violations to military authorities." "We won't tolerate those," he added. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*



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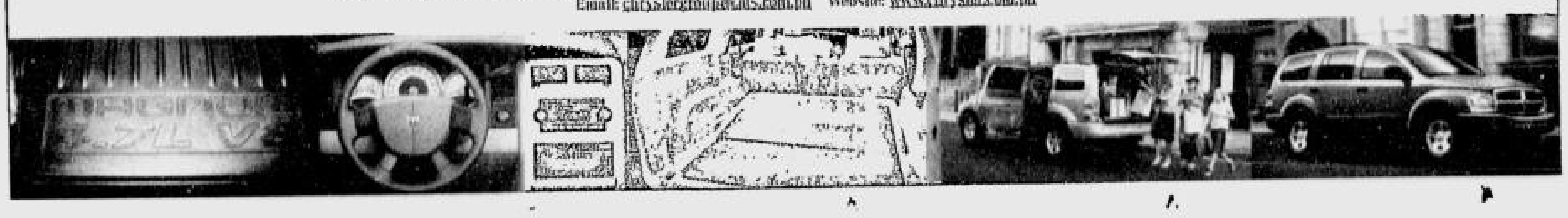

Joker: Unity talks plain politicking

From page A1

ble release on recognizance but stressed that this was based on the merits of his plunder case, not reconciliation.

Punishable by death

Senator Arroyo pointed out that Estrada's release on bail was not possible because he is charged with plunder, an offense punishable by death.

The plunder charges stem from allegations that he amassed P4 billion in ill-gotten wealth, including P130 million in kickbacks from tobacco excise taxes, P190 million in commissions from a gaming corporation and stock manipulation, and payoffs from operators of "jueteng," an illegal numbers game.

"One who is charged with a crime that carries the death penalty cannot be bailed. Neither can President Estrada be pardoned because he must first be convicted before President Arroyo can exercise her constitutional power to pardon," he said.

Given such impediments, Senator Arroyo said the remedy was for the government to immediately repeal the death penalty and subsequently commute death sentences to life imprisonment.

"With that, President Estrada can be released and President Arroyo can start her policy initiatives. More than that, death row, where hundreds of inmates sentenced to death are quartered, will be eliminated," he said.

Palace officials yesterday denied any knowledge of Defensor's efforts to reconcile with the camp of Estrada but acknowledged that reconciliation was still part of Ms Arroyo's policy.

Heal the wounds

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita noted that part of the 10-point agenda of the President was to "heal the wounds" of the Edsa people power uprisings, including Edsa II that toppled Estrada and brought Ms Arroyo into power in January 2001.

"So there could be activities going on not necessarily within our knowledge but that live within the spirit of the policy of the President," Ermita said at a rare Sunday news briefing in Malacañang.

Defensor said over the weekend that he was acting on his own when he called on Estrada to discuss reconciliation and the latter's possible release on recognizance from rest house arrest in Tanay.

Defensor said he believed Estrada was not a flight risk but acknowledged that it would still be the Sandiganbayan that would decide on the fate of the deposed President.

"My only beef is that the President was dragged into (the reconciliation talks) when I was only acting on my own initiative … Everything in the INQUIRER was exactly how it happened," he said, referring to his visit to Tanay on July 24.

Rigoberto Tiglao, Presidential Management Staff chief, said Defensor's initiative was within the scope of his work, assigned to him by the President, in reconciling the forces of Edsa I and II.

"He's a former politician and has ties on both sides of the fence," Tiglao said of Defensor.

Based on justice

Asked to comment on reports that El Shaddai leader Mike Velarde had attempted to reconcile the two leaders on Saturday night, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye merely reiterated that the President had not closed the door to reconciliation.

"But any reconciliation has to be based on justice," Bunye told RMN radio.

Although Ms Arroyo and Estrada did not have a chance to meet during the El Shaddai rally on Saturday, both leaders agreed on the principle of reconciliation, according to government media head Cerge Remonde.

"Both agreed in principle. That's a good start," Remonde, who attended the rally, said in a phone interview. "Let's just pray that this could be attained for the sake of the country.

Source of division

Soliman, a former social welfare secretary, said talks about reconciliation were "just an effort to show to the people that she (Ms Arroyo) is trying to unite (the country)."

"But she knows fully well she is the source of division," said Soliman, who resigned on July 8 along with nine other officials and called on the President to do the same.

Soliman showed up at the launch of a new anti-Arroyo movement at La Salle Green Hills yesterday with some of her fellow former Cabinet members.

Abad, a former education secretary, also doubted the sincerity of the alleged reconciliation efforts.

"The administration wants to project that it is reaching out. (Ms Arroyo) is trying to project a situation that she and her political adversaries have patched things up," he said.

For his part, Senate President Franklin Drilon reminded Malacañang that it could not intervene in the judicial process involving the plunder charges lodged against Estrada in the Sandiganbayan.

"President Erap is in the custody of the Sandiganbayan. Any action on President Estrada should be with the approval of the court, including the release on recognition," Drilon said on dzBB radio station.

Entitled to bail

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. maintained that Estrada was entitled to bail "on the assumption that the evidence of guilt [against him] isn't strong."

"That's the law. It's no favor to him. He wouldn't owe it to GMA (Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo)," he said in a text message, adding:

"I agree with Erap that he shouldn't allow himself to be used by GMA for her own purposes."

The leader of proimpeachment lawmakers in the House of Representatives is not inclined to talk peace with a president who had allegedly stolen the real mandate expressed by Filipinos through ballots in 2004.

House Minority Leader Francis Escudero rejected outright the unity talks being dangled by Palace officials even if it would favor Estrada who, as leader of the Partido ng Masang Pilipino, is considered the de facto head of the opposition.

"We are united insofar as good plans are concerned but in so doing we cannot simply ignore the responsibility and accountability of erring officials," said Escudero in a phone interview.

Lie, cheat and steal

Short of cautioning Estrada against Ms Arroyo's motives, the lawmaker insisted that no amount of unity talks between the President and Estrada could put a closure to the political crisis.

"The President cannot just say that we should forget about everything because we have serious economic problems. It's not possible. The main reason why we are in a rut is because of officials who lie, cheat and or steal," Escudero said.

Escudero is leading efforts in the House to impeach Ms Arroyo for allegedly cheating in the 2004 elections, receiving bribes from jueteng operators, entering into fraudulent contracts and hiding her real assets here and abroad, among other impeachable offenses.

"Let me throw a question they (administration) once threw at us: 'Why only now?'" he said.

"We in the opposition have always considered ourselves partners of government in regard to programs and plans that will benefit our people. However, we will not be a tool to cover up the truth nor shall we simply look the other way because it might be inconvenient or difficult for us," Escudero said.

Should Ms Arroyo reconcile with Estrada or reach any agreement with him that would lead to his illegal absolution and eventual release, "her downfall will all the more be secured," Anakpawis Rep. Crispin Beltran said.

The party-list lawmaker said Ms Arroyo was "caught between a rock and a hard place, but either way she loses."

He said the President was seeking peace with her ousted predecessor in the "desperate hope that the protests against her will be significantly weakened." *With reports from Michael Lim Ubac and Norman Bordadora*

Don't just dismiss resign calls, bishop told GMA

From page A1

of the Philippines (CBCP) compound in Manila last week.

"I repeated to her that the bishops' stand in our pastoral letter did not change," the incoming CBCP president said in Filipino in an interview with the Church-run Radio Veritas yesterday.

Lagdameo was referring to the CBCP's July 10 statement on the worst political crisis of Ms Arroyo's 4-year-old presidency. It was sparked by allegations that Ms Arroyo cheated in last year's election and demands that she resign. The President has denied manipulating the vote.

The CBCP statement has received both commendation and criticism for shying away from mounting calls for Ms Arroyo to step aside.

While Malacañang has played up this purportedly favorable position of the bishops not to join demands that Ms Arroyo stand down, Lagdameo said the statement titled "Restoring Trust: A Plea for Moral Values in Philippine Politics," was also quite clear.

Lagdameo stressed that bishops had urged Ms Arroyo not to "simply dismiss" calls for her resignation.

Options to resolve crisis

The prelate said he also reminded the President about the three options outlined by the CBCP to pull the country out of its political problems.

"Three things were clear in our pastoral letter: impeachment, truth commission, and what they call her voluntary resignation," he told the Veritas' CBCP On Air program.

In the statement, the bishops said "we recognize that nonviolent appeals for her resignation, the demand for a truth commission, and the filing of an impeachment case are not against the Gospel."

Ms Arroyo earlier promised to form a truth commission to look into allegations that she rigged the 2004 elections as suggested in wiretapped conversations between her and former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano, who has fled the country.

She has since been silent about the fact-finding body which was also endorsed by the Bishops-Businessmen's Conference.

The impeachment proceedings remain stuck at the House of Representatives with the opposition accusing administration lawmakers of blocking the effort on technicalities.

Lagdameo yesterday said he was not bothered by the verbal clashes in the House committee debating the impeachment process.

"Of course, there are arguments and clashes because each one is looking for and defending the truth," he said. "I think that's the right of everybody."

Impeach move must go on

The bishop earlier said the proceedings should continue, "no matter how painful they may be."

Some Church insiders saw the presidential visit to Lagdameo as a frantic effort to solicit the CBCP's support behind the troubled Arroyo administration.

A priest said Malacañang was probably trying to convince Lagdameo to initiate another CBCP statement, one that would unequivocally back the President.

A number of CBCP employees recalled seeing the President teary-eyed when she emerged from the nearly hourlong meeting with the prelate. One priest said he thought the President did not get what she wanted and was upset.

However, Rigoberto Tiglao, chief of the Presidential Management Staff, denied that Ms Arroyo had shed tears.

Lagdameo said he did not see Ms Arroyo crying because he was in a rush to fly back to his archdiocese in Iloilo. Despite admitting that they had discussed the CBCP statement on the crisis, he insisted that Ms Arroyo had visited him simply to greet him on his 25th anniversary as a bishop.

"Let them form their own conjectures but it was really just a private visit so she could greet me on my jubilee year," he said.

Brother Mike still hopeful on reconciliation

From page A1

larde indicated that the constitutional reforms and elections similar to the proposal of former President Fidel V. Ramos could be an essential part of the brew.

"Our suggestion is that let us be united, fix the Constitution and hold new elections as soon as possible," said Velarde, who explained to the huge crowd gathered at the Luneta last night his reason for changing his stand on Charter change.

"Laws are made for the country and for the people. If the laws have become a hindrance to the country and the people, these should be amended."

Estrada's release from jail is also expected to be a major consideration in the talks. "We will talk about that (Estrada's freedom). The past should be fixed for the sake of the country," Velarde said.

The President and Velarde talked alone for at least 10 minutes before the birthday Mass started at 8:30 p.m.

A lay movement backed by the Catholic Church, the El Shaddai community celebrated its 21st foundation anniversary and the 66th birthday of its charismatic leader.

Ms Arroyo was the first to kneel down, the first to raise and clap her hands, and among the first to sing "Happy Birthday" to Velarde. The two were seen talking extensively during the lull following communion.

Feeble applause

When she spoke before the crowd, the President got feeble applause.

"If in those years of economic crisis he was our prophet of profit, now he has been tapped by the Lord to be our prophet of reconciliation," said the President, who was effusive in her praise of the El Shaddai leader.

Ms Arroyo revealed that it was Velarde who suggested that she include "healing the wounds" of Edsa I, Edsa II and Edsa III in the 10-point agenda she unannounced last year.

Ms Arroyo left in the middle of the dinner in the VIP lounge of the Quirino grandstand when news filtered out that Estrada's convoy was already in Makati.

Her party motored out of the Quirino Grandstand at 11:40 p.m., at which time Estrada's convoy, moving him from a San Juan hospital where he had a daylong checkup, was still cutting through heavy traffic at the Buendia-Roxas Boulevard intersection.

Familiar waddle

Estrada strode onto the stage with that familiar waddle in a bright red jacket and dark blue slacks. By all accounts, the former movie star drew bigger applause and wilder cheers than the other VIPs who spoke before him less than two hours earlier.

"I really envy Brother Mike. He can wear an *amerikana* (business suit) in any color from the crayon box and still pull it off," he said in Filipino.

Even when proclaiming his new-found religiosity, which he attributed to his 4-year detention, Estrada had to pause after every sentence until the clapping and laughter faded out.

"They have imprisoned me,'" he said, alluding to state prosecutors in his P4-billion plunder case before the Sandiganbayan anti-graft court. "But the long hours alone have given me the freedom to freely talk to the Lord at all times."

Winds of freedom

"It's not true I'm rotting in jail. Truth is, I grew younger, stronger, and more energetic. I enjoy the breeze of peace. But here (out of detention), I feel the winds of freedom and your love. When you're free, you appreciate even the traffic congestion."

The ex-President is being held while on trial at his sprawling vacation home in Tanay, Rizal, a one-time youth camp with a man-made lake and guest rooms.

Estrada said he had more time to pray and do "Bible study.'" He had but a few minutes for these when he was President, back when "I had too much self-confidence. But God has His purpose for me.'"

Learning to forgive

He went on to quote the Scriptures—from the Gospel of St. John to an epistle of St. James. "Listen closely, OK? This one's in English," the ex-actor said, delighting his audience with his preacher-like delivery of the verses.

Estrada said he had "learned how to forgive'" after four years in detention, adding:

"I have lost all bitterness and spite toward the people who had accused, mocked and judged me."

He said he was joining Velarde in praying for peace in the country. "Let us be united and stand together for truth and justice for the Filipino people," he said.

And for his closing act, Estrada stepped away from the podium, got hold of a cordless microphone, and turned crooner. The piece: His own version of "Doon Lang," a popular Filipino romantic ballad.

The ex-President rewrote the lyrics to turn the song into a tribute to his friend Fernando Poe Jr., who died last December, months after losing the presidential race to Ms Arroyo. Yesterday was also Poe's birthday.

Pressures on RP democracy

From page A1

relative strengths and shortcomings of the parliamentary and presidential systems and the motivations behind the Arroyo call for constitutional revision, the purpose of this paper is simply to point out the instability of the Philippine constitutional system that has defined, except during the Marcos dictatorship, our democratic values.

The periodic impulses for constitutional revision reveal a chronic restlessness of the Filipino people over political change—whether it is constitutional or leadership change. The pressure for change has been highlighted by the current political crisis.

2 currents

The pressure comes from two powerful currents—constitutional revision and the removal of President Arroyo from office either through resignation or impeachment. At no time since independence has the country faced demands for constitutional revision and leadership change at the same time and within the matrix of an avowedly democratic constitutional system.

These pressures have raised concerns over whether Philippine democracy can accommodate these twin demands which both use the Constitution for their justification. Since 2000, we have had two impeachment cases lodged against two elected presidents—Joseph Estrada in 2000 and Ms Arroyo on July 25, 2005.

This is not to mention the fact that previously there had been attempts to impeach President Elpidio Quirino in 1949, President Diosdado Macapagal in 1963, and President Ferdinand Marcos in 1986. All these impeachment moves were extinguished in the House of Representatives after they failed to marshal sufficient votes to warrant the endorsement of the complaints to the Senate for trial.

All these failed impeachment bids show a history of capriciousness and public volatility over political change at the expense of long-term economic management as well as policy predictability and consistency.

Estrada made history as the only President who stood an impeachment trial in the Senate. No vote was taken on the impeachment complaint against him after the trial was aborted by the suppression of the envelope containing vital evidence purporting to show Estrada's secret bank accounts.

3 complaints

The three impeachment complaints against Ms Arroyo are bogged down in debate over procedural issues at the House committee on justice.

Impeachment is one of the four modes defined by the Constitution in which a sitting president may be changed; the three other modes are death, permanent disability and resignation. In the case of Ms Arroyo, she has come under pressure through the resignation and impeachment modes.

The impeachment complaint is pending in the House even as Ms Arroyo continues to come under pressure from street protests to step down. Critics of Ms Arroyo are arguing that accusations of election cheating have damaged her credibility and moral authority, have destroyed public confidence in her administration and have impaired her ability to govern effectively.

The resignation pressure avails of the opportunity to mobilize massive people power that has been successful in ousting Marcos in 1986 and Estrada in 2001.

Ambiguity

Although impeachment is a clear-cut constitutional mode in removing a president, there is a debate over the ambiguity of whether people power is mandated by the Constitution. There are those who argue that people power is extraconstitutional.

But another view is held by the likes of Fr. Joaquin Bernas and shared by other lawyers and the mass movement demanding Ms Arroyo's resignation. Bernas cites a Supreme Court ruling that "People Power I" was "a successful revolution which changed not only an administration but also a government and a Constitution."

Bernas argues that the High Court has held that "revolution is a right of the sovereign people and therefore not unconstitutional and even if extraconstitutional."

However, recognizing the power of political reality in validating political movements, Bernas has to concede that for a revolution to be accepted, it must first succeed.

Bernas thus puts a finger on the problem of the resignation movement which depends on street action to exert sufficient pressure on the President to step down. So far, regime opponents have not succeeded in mobilizing massive protests to bring the collapse of the Arroyo administration.

People power fatigue

To blame "people power fatigue" for the opposition's failure is an insufficient explanation. The dynamics of street protests are so different today than those of 1986 and 2001.

In view of these different dynamics, it is, therefore, difficult to predict political outcomes based on the scenarios of those years. Using these experiences uncritically can only lead to serious miscalculations, wrong interpretations, and self-delusion.

But it is important to bear in mind that the country today is assailed by three constitutional approaches in dealing with the crisis that has paralyzed the nation. The first approach is impeachment; the second is the use of people power to force resignation; and the third, which is more fundamental than the two others, is constitutional revision.

We can't have both leadership change and constitutional change without tearing the fabric of constitutional democracy. In this process, we have trivialized both people power and impeachment—which are weapons of "extreme resort" to change an administration accused of grievous wrongdoing.

Crackdown set against illegal software users

By Margaux C. Ortiz

USE LICENSED software or face the consequences.

Businesses using pirated computer programs have 30 days to buy authorized software before the Pilipinas Anti-Piracy Team begins a series of raids to stop the proliferation of software piracy in the country, said Jose Justo Yap, head of the National Bureau of Investigation-Intellectual Property Division.

Yap said that beginning Sept. 16, the NBI, the Optical Media Board, and the Philippine National Police would start conducting operations against businesses engaged in the selling and distribution of illegal software.

"The team's Oplan Crackdown encourages users to legalize their software before the series of raids begin," Yap said, adding that the government agencies are supportive of the Business Software Alliance's (BSA) campaign against the use of pirated software by local firms.

In newspaper advertisements published last Aug. 17, the BSA and the anti-piracy team said that losses due to piracy amounted to P3.7 billion in 2004.

AKALA MO, JOKE HA?

The alliance also cited data from the second BSA-IDC Global Software Piracy Study which showed that 71 percent of computer software used in the Philippines last year was illegal.

"This is a major blow to the development of the local information and communications technology sector and has posed a threat to the country's economy," the alliance said.

The BSA added that violators of the Intellectual Property Code or the Optical Media Act may face imprisonment up to nine years.

Last week, the NBI seized P1-million worth of pirated software from a business establishment in Pasig City.

Yap said three units of personal computers containing unauthorized reproductions of Microsoft, Autodesk, Adobe and Symantec software were seized from R&D TEC Design, Inc.

NBI agents also confiscated two compact discs containing unauthorized reproductions of Design Solution Autodesk and Microsoft Windows 2000 from the design firm, located at Rooms 1001 and 1008, 10th Floor, Antel Global Corporate Center, Doña Julia Vargas Avenue, Ortigas Center.

Yap said the raid was conducted based on the complaint of Autodesk, Microsoft, and Symantec Corporations, and Adobe Systems Incorporated.

Yap explained that the Autocad software used by the firm costs around P200,000 each while Microsoft, Adobe and Symantec programs could be purchased at P30,000 to P50,000.

Yap said officers and directors of the firm would be charged with four counts of copyright infringement.

Mobile ads catch MMDA eye

By Tarra V. Quismundo

MOBILE billboards which are meant to be visible on the road have caught the attention of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA).

The MMDA has begun studying how to regulate advertisement trucks, medium-sized vehicles which carry huge promotional billboards around the metropolis.

"At times they cause traffic and obstruct roadways," said MMDA Traffic Operations Center Executive Director Angelito Vergel de Dios.

Currently, advertisement trucks, a recent trend in advertising, are bound only by regular traffic regulations.

"We do not know what to charge them with, but definitely they are causing obstruction because they move slow so that people would see the ads. Sometimes, we see them encroaching on sidewalks," said the traffic chief.

The MMDA can pass a resolution to regulate the trucks.

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Manila looks back at Plaza bomb attack

By Margaux C. Ortiz

LOCAL officials led residents and students in remembering the carnage three decades ago at the Plaza Miranda, one of the reasons used to set off Martial Law.

Mayor Lito Atienza told hundreds of students from the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila and City Colleges of Manila that the commemoration was a good opportunity to tell the young of how earlier generations survived the dark years of dictatorial rule.

"Aug. 21, 1971 was the day we lost our democracy when Plaza Miranda was bombed," Atienza said in an interview with the INQUIRER.

"But by divine providence," he said, "we gained back our democracy exactly 12 years later when Sen. Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino was killed."

Atienza said the search for the brains behind the assassination of Aquino should continue.

"The government should reopen the case because the 15 soldiers convicted of killing Ninoy are rotting in jail while we still have to find out who is the actual mastermind behind the killing," Atienza said.

Australian teen, 2 others arrested in QC

AN AUSTRALIAN teenager who was reported to have been abducted Saturday was actually arrested for alleged involvement in illegally recruiting workers for abroad, an official said yesterday.

Reports (not in the INQUIRER) said armed men abducted Charles Sajor, 15, and two Filipinos from a house in Quezon City.

However, an officer of a task force against illegal recruitment, Virgilio Nonato, said Sajor and a companion, Michael Jayson Rea, were arrested for alleged involvement in the illegal recruitment of dozens of Filipinos for overseas work.

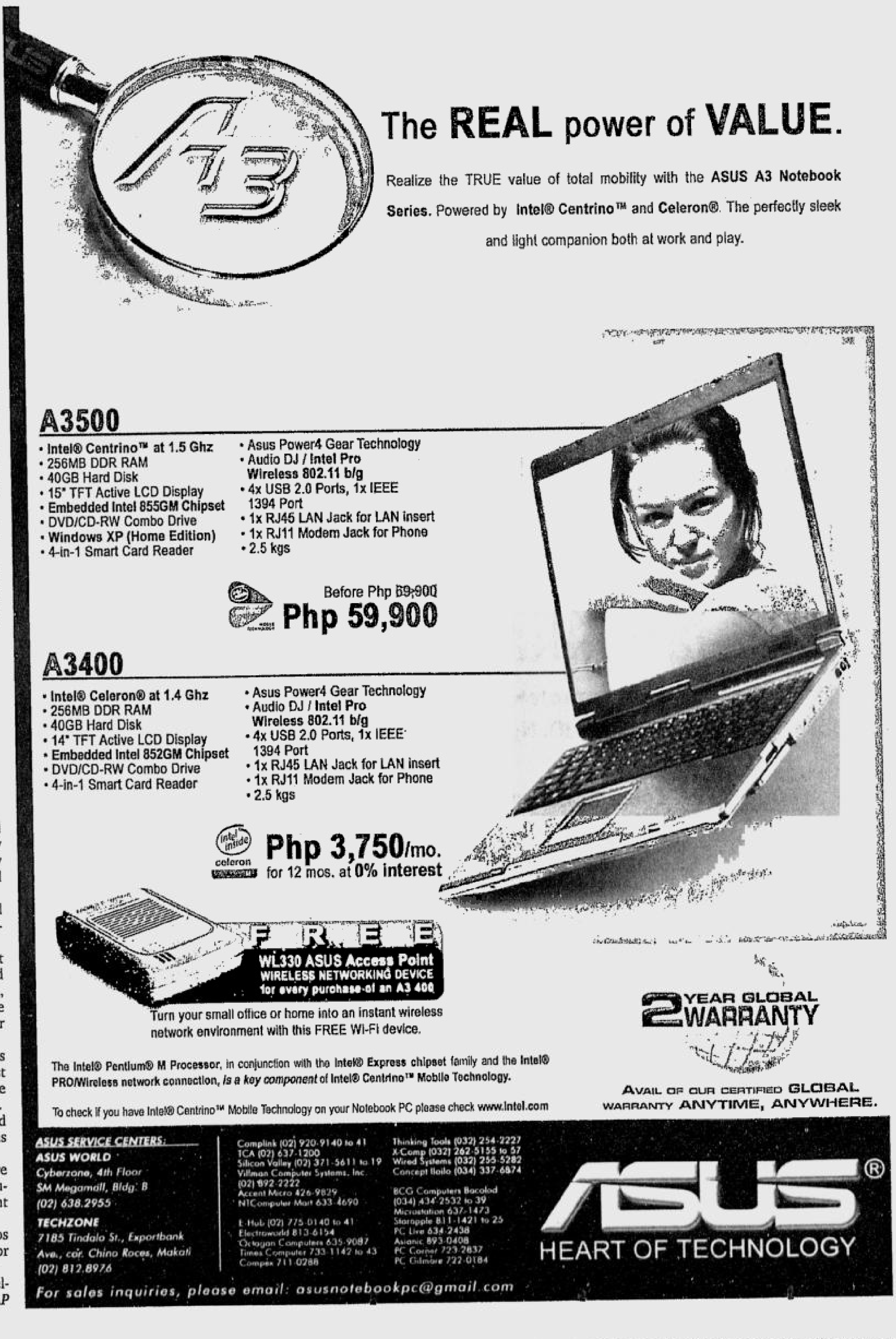
Nonato declined to say whether agents who took Sajor into custody had an arrest warrant, saying his office would explain the circumstances of the arrests to court officials.

Sajor's mother allegedly ran an unlicensed agency that had recruited Filipinos to work as factory laborers or caregivers in Europe.

Those recruited were arrested in Singapore and deported to Manila for lack of work documents, and Sajor's mother was being sought by authorities, Nonato said.

Sajor allegedly helped escort the Filipinos to the airport weeks ago, Nonato said. Sajor denied the allegations, Nonato added.

Sajor will be turned over to the social welfare department, Nonato said. AP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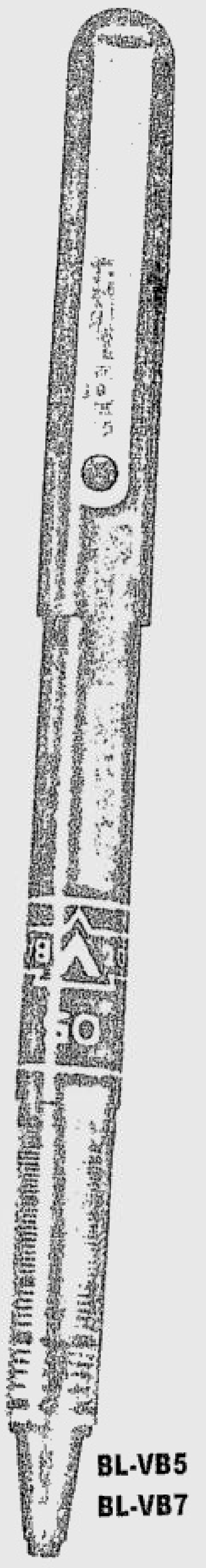
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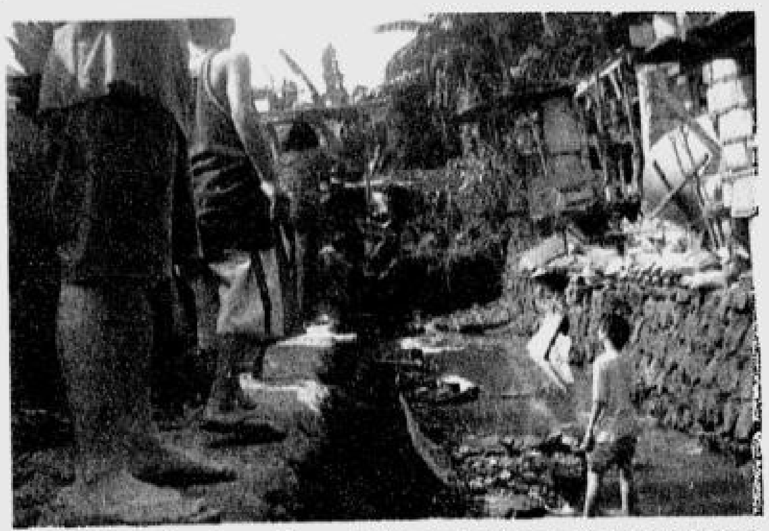
Gas blast hurts 16 in QC



SPILLED gasoline flowed through this drain pipe and into a creek and near shanties in this squatter's colony in Don Antonio Heights, Quezon City. RAFFY LERMA

DESTRUCTION came through an open canal.

The fiery explosion resulting from some 5,000 liters of igniting gasoline razed a shanty, damaged 80 other makeshift houses and hurt 16 people in Quezon City early yesterday morning.

It was 5:37 a.m. in Don Antonio Heights Subdivision, Barangay Holy Spirit, when a loud blast shook a squatter colony, fire investigators said.

Suddenly, a creek and drainage canals along Don Gregorio, Don Victorino and Don Miguel Streets erupted in flames.

A house on Don Gregorio caught fire and a resident was badly burned by the rush of fire coming from below.

Some houses of light materials were blown apart while 15 other residents were hurt by the flames.

It also reportedly blew out several concrete manhole covers.

Stunned, residents began to ask "What happened?"

Speaking to media, Chief Supt. Nicasio Radovan said it all started when an oil tanker made a turn on a street corner and hit a big rock.

It caused the truck to stop along Gregorio Street.

The incident damaged a valve in one of the four or five storage compartments of the tanker and caused it to spill gasoline.

About 5,000 liters of gasoline then flowed into a drainage canal which carried the fuel to adjacent Don Victorino and Don Miguel Streets.

On Gregorio Street, while reportedly preparing to cook breakfast, a resident opened a stove and ignited the gasoline.

A man, identified as Roberto Daza, was rushed to the Malvar General Hospital after suffering third degree burns and a cut on the forehead, fire investigators said.

The house that caught fire burned up to 9 a.m. As of presstime yesterday, fire fighters were preparing to pump gasoline out of the affected areas. *DJ Yap*

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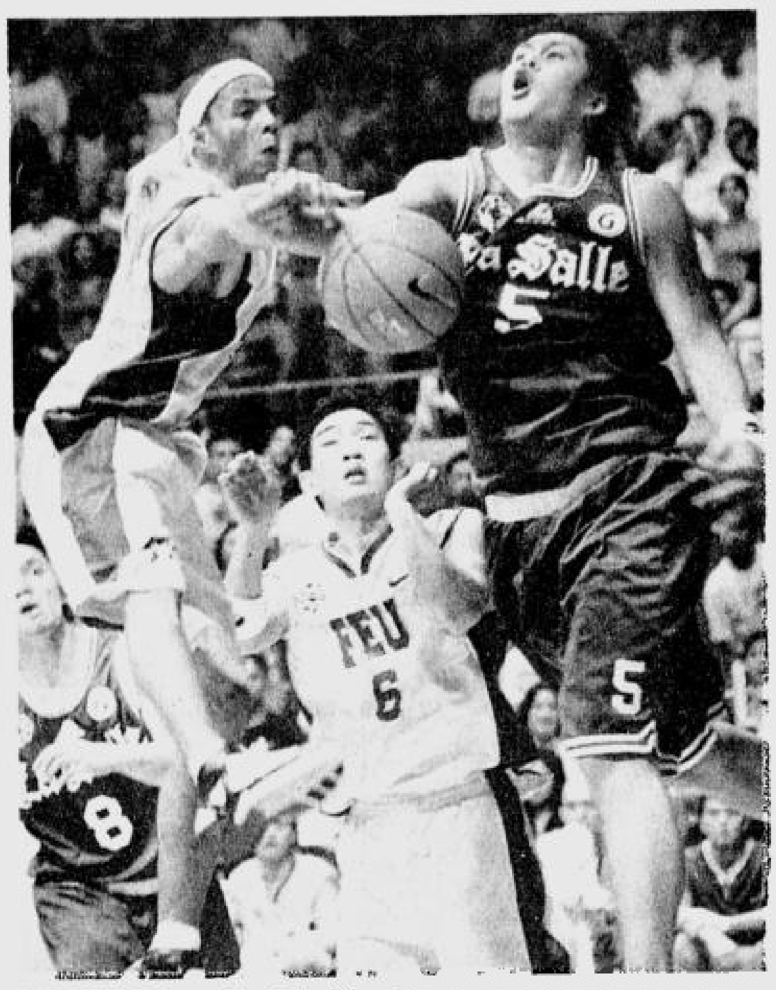
BADMINTON: 2005 IBF World Badminton Championship; 10:30 a.m.; STAR Sports – Check out the Finals live from the Arrowhead Pond in Anaheim.

TENNIS: Western Southern Financial Group Masters; 1 p.m. (r) and 8:30 p.m.; STAR Sports – Take another look at the finals and highlights from Cincinnati.

Sputtering Tamaraws squirm past Archers


JUN-JUN Cabatu of La Salle (5) and Arwind Santos of FEU dispute possession while Tam Jeffrie Chan (6) and Archer Joseph Yeo (8) look on.
AUGUST DELA CRUZ

By Jasmine W. Payo

SHOWING the composure that kept them on top all season, the Far Eastern U Tamaraws escaped with a 70-69 victory over the La Salle Archers in the UAAP basketball tournament yesterday at the jampacked Araneta Coliseum

"I told them that whatever happens, we must focus on our defense," said FEU coach Bert Flores. "We turned the ball over in our last two possessions, but La Salle still wasn't able to convert."

Arwind Santos displayed another impressive all-around game with 16 points, 16 rebounds and a season-high eight blocks for the Tamaraws, who kept the solo lead at 8-1.

Earlier, the University of the East Warriors pounded the University of Santo Tomas Tigers, 66-53, to keep second spot at 8-2.

The Warriors banked on a strong fourth-quarter performances of Bonbon Custodio and Mark Borboran, who finished with 20 points apiece in dooming the Tigers to their eighth loss in 10 games.

The Archers, who fell to 5-4, failed to convert even after the Tamaraws turned the ball twice in the closing seconds and nearly blew a 70-64 lead.

In junior play, the Bengals stunned the Baby Tamaraws in overtime, 83-77, while the Cubs squeaked past the Pages, 76-70.

The scores:

First Game (Srs)

UE 66—Custodio 20, Borboran 20, Espiritu 11, Saguindel 7, Cañizares 6, Raymundo 2, Palaganas 0, Martinez 0, Labagala 0.

UST 53—Duncil 11, Pribhdas 11, De Guzman 6, Cuan 5, Taylor 4, Allera 4, Dizon 3, Espiritu 2, Evangelista 2, Cortez 0.

Quarters: 15-9, 31-31, 48-46, 66-53

Second Game (Srs)

FEU 70—Santos 16, Rizada 13, Isip 11, Villanueva 10, Saldua 9, Fernandez 6, Chan 3, Barcellano 2, Mangahas 0, Dela Cruz 0.

LA SALLE 69—Cabatu 16, Yeo 14, Malerhoffer 10, Araña 10, Casio 8, Tang 4, Cua 3, Villanueva 2, Benitez 2, Rivera 0.

Quarters: 26-9, 39-36, 53-52, 70-69

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9:30 a.m.—UST vs UE (Jrs)
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2 p.m.—UST vs UE (Srs)
4 p.m.—FEU vs La Salle (Srs)

97
days to go before
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Moying slams Lim over Fiba suspension

"HOW can you expect an alien to advance the interest of Filipinos?"

This was how Philippine Basketball Federation president Mauricio Martelino slammed the most recent attempt by Basketball Association of the Philippines secretary general Graham Lim to draw a public reaction with the hypothesis that the basketball event in the 23rd Southeast Asian Games is not going to happen.

"Mr. Lim wants to frustrate our basketball-loving country," said Martelino. "He wants to hold the Philippines hostage by setting the return of BAP to the Olympic committee membership roster as pre-condition to the staging of the SEAG basketball event.

"*Ang buong Pilipinas* worried, *siya na hindi Pilipino nagsasaya* (The whole country is worried, while he, who is not a Filipino, rejoices)," Martelino added.

Martelino also chided Lim, a court-declared alien whose deportation order is under appeal, for peddling to media that the International Basketball Federation (Fiba) cannot take back its recognition of the BAP.

The PBF head pointed out that the BAP needs no less than 33 votes out of the 39 POC members to reverse the association's fate.

"We are confident that in due time, Fiba will refer to a vital provision of its constitution regarding membership," Martelino said.

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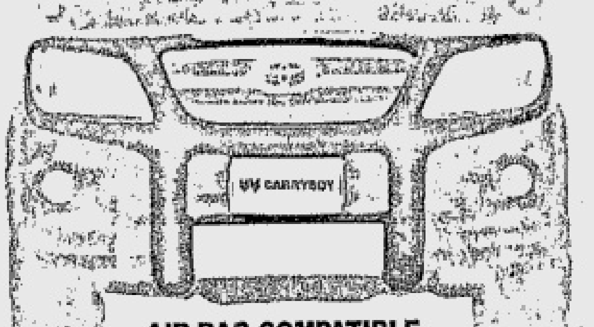

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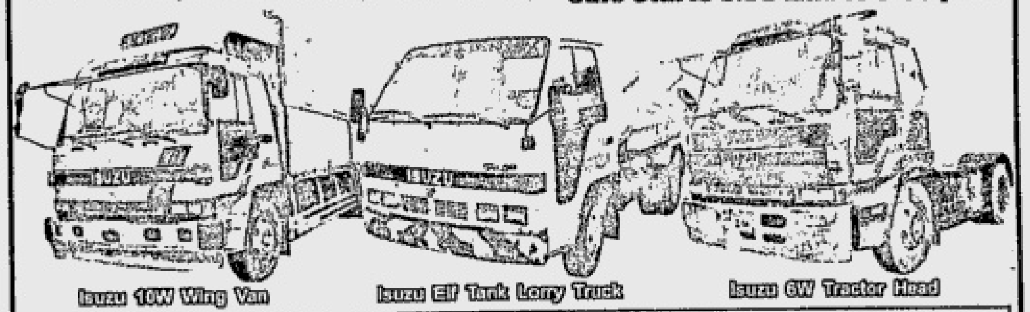

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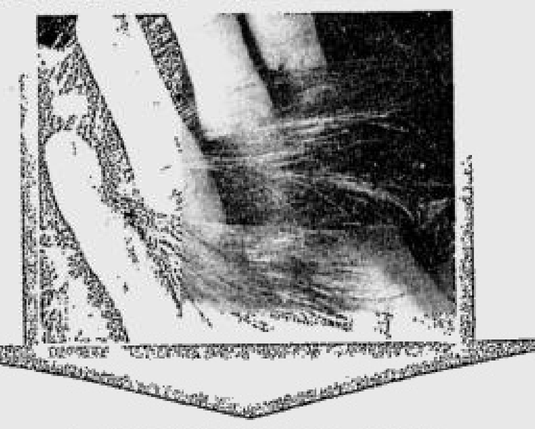

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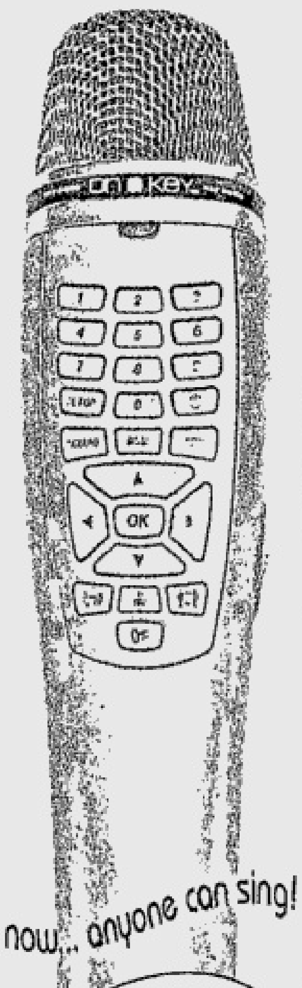

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Songs Download Capability	Internet Enabled to On Key Website	No songs download capability
Built-in Songs	351 New English and Most Popular OPM Songs	Artist from the 60's, 70's and 80's
Local Artists in Built-In Songs (Karaoke Format)	Songs Popularized by Nina, N.Volante, P. Santos, P. Pascual, S. Geronimo, etc.	None
Foreign Artists in Built-in songs	Songs Popularized by N. Jones, A. Lavigne, J. Lo, Britney, Beyonce, A. Keys, L. Fabian, J. Groban, J. Mayer, Linkin Park, etc.	60's, 70's and 80's
Pitch Correction	Corrects pitch and tune at the press of a button so you never sing out of tune	None
Reverb Settings	5 Reverb Effects Set in Realistic Music Venues	Echo control only
Voice Transformation	Male to Female, Female to Male, Adult to Child, Spaceman and Techno	Male to Female and vice versa only
Duet Function	With Duet Capability for Every Song	None
Harmony	Provides second voice blending to user	None
Real Time Scoring	Averages your score based on every note	General Scoring
Song Selections Arrangement	By Artist and By Title	Varied and Random
Tempo and Key Control	Adjustable without harming the music quality	Adjustable
Technology	North America (Canada)	Korea

Source: Published Materials Of Other Brands

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RP-SMB five bows to Japan; Aces also fall

BRUNEI Darussalam—Japan's Toshiba Brave Thunders gave the RP-San Miguel Beer a rude welcome with an 89-80 defeat of the Filipinos in the 5th Shell Rimula Cup Saturday night at the National Indoor Stadium.

The Japanese survived a scorching three-point shooting by Renren Ritualo in the third period and turned on to their center Enkin Suo and import Frederick Lewis in the homestretch to pull off the stunner in the main game of the opening bill.

Meanwhile, the SK Knights of South Korea took the lead in the four-nation, six-team tournament by nipping Artemus "Tee" McClary and the Alaska Aces, 85-82, Sunday for their second straight victory.

The Koreans, reinforced by former Shell import Wesley Wilson, debuted Saturday by blasting China's Shandong Lions, 81-62.

It was a tough loss for the Nationals, who led by 13 points at 69-56 going into the final quarter with Ritualo drilling six of his seven triples in the third period.

Toshiba unloaded a searing 22-4 blast at the start of the payoff period with Suo and Yuki Orihara doing most of the damage to retake the lead at 78-73, with 3:51 left.

GAMES TODAY
(*National Indoor Stadium*)
1 p.m.—SK Knights vs Alaska
3 p.m.—Toshiba vs Warriors
5 p.m.—Shandong vs RP-SMB

Jayjay Helterbrand halted the RP scoring drought with a jumper and Tony dela Cruz knotted the score for the last time with a triple, 78-all.

The Aces had a chance to send their game with the Koreans in overtime but Stephen Padilla's trey rimmed out as time expired.

The scores:

TOSHIBA-JAPAN 89—Suo 26, Kita 19, Lewis 15, Kleinschmidt 14, Orihara 8, Sato 2, Miyanaga 2, Setsumasa 2.

RP-SMB 80—Ritualo 21, Alapag 13, Helterbrand 10, Taulava 10, Dela Cruz 9, Hontiveros 4, Raymundo 4, Adducul 3, Williams 2, Belasco 2, Mamaril 2, Reavis 0.

Quarters: 23-19, 37-43, 56-69, 89-80

SK KNIGHTS 85—Wilson 29, Won 17, Hu 15, L.J. Hyun 15, C.S. Hyun 9, Han 0, Sung 0.

ALASKA 82—MacClary 25, Hugnatan 13, Cortez 12, Padilla 10, Thoss 6, Allado 6, Cablay 5, Alvarez 3, Wilson 2.

Quarters: 21-29, 40-54, 66-68, 85-82

Cabading: Bigger tragedy discovered

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

RESPONDING to a brotherly call, Edu Manzano has asked to be counted in.

Plug me in for P10,000, the famous actor offered hours before the INQUIRER team could leave for Villasis, Pangasinan, last Saturday to deliver donations for former national cager Romualdo Cabading, a hit-and-run victim who has remained confined to his sick bed.

Manzano's check will be sent to the simple Cabading household in quiet, tree-lined Barangay San Nicolas on Saturday, a full week after the first batch of contributions had reached the very thankful family.

Former senator Freddie Webb, who has been flashing Cabading's tragic fate in his popular radio program over dzMM, has also vowed his share.

Members of Cabading's family, his articulate wife Frederlinda and three grown-up children, overwhelmed by the outpouring of support for the luckless father who has made Pangasinan proud with his sporting exploits, have offered their sincerest gratitude.

* * *

The outpouring of concern was nothing short of tremendous.

But there's tragic truth in what Cabading's wife had detailed on the condition of the fallen former pro player, a PBA pioneer.

Cabading, 53, crushed and crippled, will never be able to work again. Worse, he continues to agonize in his sick bed.

On Saturday, it was a gray, sleepwalking ghost of the once tall, flashy player who greeted visitors in his neat, orderly living room with a shiny, well-polished cement floor.

He could not stand alone, and Cabading had to be helped to his feet after he rolled and groped out of a hard bed inside a cave-like side room left of the sala.

* * *

In faded shorts, an old T-shirt, he also wore a thick gray padding on his right shoulder, whose lower bone had snapped into two when he was hit by a reckless tricycle off the highway last December.

His head slammed on the hard road and Cabading was fortunately rescued by a cousin who took him to a hospital.

Cabading had lain in coma for five days after the crash, the wife reported.

But on Saturday, his now graying hair tousled, he appeared half-restored by a long, painful sleep.

He stammered, struggled to narrate, but failed as he could hardly complete a full sentence.

He could not properly focus his sight, and quietly complained of a hard, invisible growth over the left eye.

* * *

The initial diagnosis (after the Dec. 16, 2004 crash) was brain contusion with intra-cerebral hematoma.

But there could've been other inner fractures, other than the disjoined right upper arm bone.

There was something in Cabading's face that said countless nails and needles continue to revolt inside his broken body.

Naturally, the family also had to suffer extensively.

The youngest kid had to skip schooling this year, with the family surviving on the earnings of Romualdo Jr., a qualified banking and finance graduate who was forced to take a lowly job in a restaurant.

But would you believe, the poor wife said, that Cabading had already crossed and was already on the safe edge of the highway when he was hit?

She suspected the brutality suffered by her husband was intentional, as she reported the reckless tricycle driver even turned off the headlights before charging and running over Cabading.

In conclusion, the poor lady of the house said she did not intend to put the government in a spot.

But she wondered why the retirement pay of P38,000 due Cabading, after the Department of Agrarian Reform had discontinued his services as a company driver, could not be collected.

For the record, the wife said Cabading worked with the DAR for 20 years.

But when they tried to avail of emergency pension from the GSIS, they were told Cabading was seven years short of the required 20-year premium payment.

Nearly a year after the crippling accident, the Cabading family continues to be brutalized by a bigger monster.

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(NAINA)
A FILM BY SHRIPAL MORAKHIA
The Eyes that saw the Dead... and Death

INQUIRER
TV GUIDE
Monday August 22 2005

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klabing
WOW mali na Mali
8_pm saturday 9_pm
ClickTheCity.com

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
NBN	Tinig ng Bayan (Live)				Teledyaryo	Tinig ng Bayan (Live)		Concert at the Park				Teledyaryo		Tinig ng Bayan (Live)		Dial M			
ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema				Pasion de Amor	Mr. Bean	Naruto	Cpids	Meteor Garden Season 2	TV Patrol World	Mga Anghel Na Walang Langit	Ikaw Ang Lahat Sa Akin	Kampanerang Kuba	Green Rose	Oh! Feel Young	OK Fine! Whatever			Insider
ABC 5			EZ Shop		Winner TV Shopping		TNA Impact		Sentro	Friends	Guinness Book Of Record		Fear Factor		Big News	Look Who's Talking		Billboard On-Air	
GMA 7	Saang Sulok Ng Langit	Now and Forever	Hotelier	Shaman King	Slam Dunk	All For Love		24 Oras		Extra Challenge		Darna	Encantadia	Sugo	Attic Cat	Lagot Ka, Isusumbong Kita			Saksi
RPN 9	TV Shopping		Defenders Of The Earth	Hey Arnold!	As Told By Ginger	Wild Thornberries	Sponge Bob	Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	Ambush Makeover		Medium		Cold Case		Newswatch Now	Sex & the City	Cerge For Truth	
IBC 13		EZ Shop		EZ Shop		Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	Krusada Kontra Krimen		MTV		Men of Power	Basketball Show		King Of Adventure		IBC News Tonite	Linawin Natin	
SBN 21		New Life TV Shop		New Life TV Shop				EZ Shop				Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Superfine Tv Shopping		Evening Devotions	
Studio 23						Super Gals		Get Backers	Beyblade	Wazzup Wazzup	America's Next Top Model	Tru Calling		Charmed		News Central	The Next Joe Millionaire		Travel Time
MTV Philippines			MTV Pop Inc			Hangin Out at MTV	MTV Get Spotted	TRL											
MYX	Star MYX	Urban MYX	Rock MYX	OPM MYX	My MYX	Take 5	MYX Backtrax	MYX Firsts	Mellow MYX	Pop MYX	Urban MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		OPM MYX Countdown		My MYX	OPM MYX	MYX Backtrax	Mellow MYX
CNN		Business International		Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	Business International		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	Living Golf	World News Asia		Your World Today	
ESPN				ESPN Great Outdoor Games				Pool/Snooker Rack 'Em Up 4		Eng. Premier League Highlights		Sportscenter Asia	World Snooker Tour China Open						Sportscenter Asia
Solar Sports		FIVB Montreux '05							NBA XL	Sagupaan		Fight	Sports Desk	Men's Volleyball '05				WNBA Game	
Sports Plus					This Is The PGA Tour		Nepl Turnervorsion	Ultimate Fighting Championship			Tour De France	FMX		Raceworld		World Golf C'ships NEC Invitational Final			
Cinemax	The Tuxedo (2:45 PM)				Tarzan And The Lost Safari		Dragnet (5:45 PM)				Everything That Rises			Darkman III Die Darkman Die			Mind Of The Crime		
Hallmark Channel	Bewitched	Wife Swap		HCA: The Fairytaler	Sesame Street		Mad About You	Bewitched	Ladies Man	Just Cause		Wife Swap		Midsomer Murders: Dead Man's Eleven			Regenesis (10:35PM)		Just Cause (11:25PM)
Disney Channel	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/Unfabulative Bunny	So Little Time	Buzz Lightyear Of Star Command	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series	House Of Mouse				So Little Time	Sabrina, The Animated Series	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Chip N Dale's Rescue Rangers		
Discovery Channel		Body Work		Mummy Autopsy		Wild Tech		Giants Of The Skies		Unsolved History				Wild Discovery		Blueprint For Disaster		Deadly Women	
National Geographic		Built For The Kill		Planet Wild		Wild Life Adventure		Dogs With Jobs	Hayden Turner's Wildlife Challenge	Wow! Animal Devil		About Asia		National Geographic Specials		Built For The Kill		Planet Wild	
Cartoon Network	Scooby-Doo Show	The All New Popeye Show		Tom & Jerry Show	The Woody Woodpecker Show	X-Men Evolution	Static Shock		Atomic Betty	SD Gundam Force	Medabots	The Looney Tunes Show		The Powerpuff Girls	Johnny Bravo	Time Squad	Thundercats		Atomic Betty
Nickelodeon	Blues Clues/What Planet Are You From	Rugrats	Hey Arnold!	My Life As A Teenage Robot/Right On Top	The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron	SpongeBob SquarePants	Fairly Odd Parents- New Episode	All That	Naturally Sadie	Sabrina, The Teenage Witch	Drake & Josh	Romeo	All Grown Up	As Told By Ginger	Rocket Power	Chalkzone	The Wild Thornberrys	The Angry Beavers	Are You Afraid of the Dark?
Lifestyle Network	Country Style	Interiors By Design	Decorating With Style	Decorating Cents	Moto Mario	Sweet Dreams	30 Minute Meals	Bill Boggs Corner	Unwrapped	Food 911	E! Extra 101 Sensational Crime Of Fashion		NY Fashion Week	Life & Style		Fine Living Special China: Riding The Iron Dragon		Breathing Room	Genuine Article
Star World		The Bold & The Beautiful		Hollywood Squares	Whose Line Is It Anyway?	Buffy The Vampire Slayer		The Simpsons	The Drew Carey Show	Star News Asia	Friends	The King Of Queens	Still Standing	Yes Dear	Becker	Wonderfalls		Friends	The King Of Queens
AXN		Lost		Worst Case Scenario		30 Seconds To Fame	E Buzz	The Legend Of Condor Hero	The Legend Of Condor Hero	Cold Squad (Season IV)		Now See This	Now See This	Fear Factor (Season V)		David Blaine Street Magic		David Blaine Magic Man	
JackTV	Drawn Together	South Park	Street Smarts	Wwe Heat		WWE Velocity		Cheat	Just For Laughs	Mad TV		Kid Notorious	Comedy Central Presents	Insomniac W/ Dave Attell	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Blue Collar TV	Banzai	Joe Schmo Show	
ETC		Complete Savages	Knock First	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Elimidate	Change of Heart	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	Friends	Will & Grace	The O.C.		Queer eye For The Straight Guy		ET Weekend		For Love Or Money	
HBO			Funny About Love (3:35 PM)				Vice Versa (5:25 PM)			Paycheck (7:05 PM)				Along Came Polly			Identity	A Murder Of Crows (11:05PM)	
Star Movies			Alex & Emma (3:35 PM)			Le Divorce (5:15 PM)				Six Days Seven Nights (7:15 PM)				The Mummy					
Cinema One		Topo Topo Barega				Mano Po 2				Bakit Papa?				Kung Ako Na Lang Sana				Xerex	
EWTN	The Church And The Poor-Building Bridges	Angelus (3:15 PM)	Benediction And Devotion Encore	Faith Factory A	Image Of God	Rosary With Mother Angelica	EWTN Gallery	Threshold Of Hope Encore		Sunday Night Live With Fr. Groeschel		Daily Mass		Angelus (9:15 PM)	Holy Spirit In The Church	St. Matthew Evangelist Of The Church	Getting God's Help	Catholic Compass	

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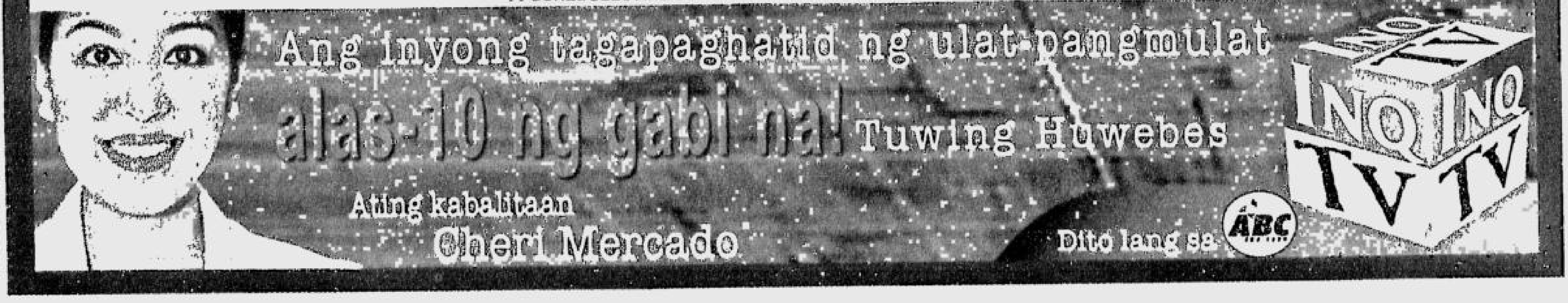

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THE PHILIPPINES' Dado Peña (right) shares the podium with winner John O'Hara of Ireland (center) and runner-up James Winslow of Britain.

Peña winds up 3rd as tough luck hounds Sy

By Roy Luarca

BOGOR, Indonesia—Bad luck struck Tyson Sy anew Sunday, leaving fellow Filipino Dado Peña to carry the fight for the Philippines in Round Seven of the Asian Formula 3 Grand Prix at the Sentul International Circuit here.

Sy, the top qualifier overnight, stalled on the grid due to an overheated clutch but still landed fourth behind Peña in the race punctuated by the 1-2 finish of Shell Helix Kinetic PCSO drivers John O'Hara of Ireland and James Winslow of Great Britain.

O'Hara, which overtook Winslow in the seventh lap, clocked 15 minutes and 44:968 seconds in the round reduced to 11 laps after Ireland's Barry Waugh got stalled due to a clutch malfunction in the first start.

Just before flag-off, Waugh, making his debut in the country-hopping series, raised his hands, indicating he had trouble with his car. This prompted race officials to delay the start for five minutes.

Winslow timed 15:47.424, beating Peña (15:51.435) of Team Goddard-Minardi Team Asia and Sy of Speedtech Asia, who rallied from sixth place to clock 15:53.901.

Notable casualties of the morning race at the 3.9-km circuit were overall leader and local hero Ananda Mikola and 2004 AF3 champion Christian Jones of Australia.

Mikola, who swept the two rounds here last year, retired after his fire extinguisher deployed in the second lap. Jones went out of action seconds later when his engine overheated.

Despite getting no points, Mikola stayed way ahead in the standings with 95 points on four earlier victories. Jones, however, dropped to fourth from second with 62.

Winslow climbed to second with 70 points, while O'Hara jumped to third with 62. Peña stayed fifth with 49, followed by Sy (46), veteran Filipino campaigner Pepon Marave (43) of Shell Helix Kinetic PCSO and Macau's Rodolfo Avila (42) of Christian Jones Motorsport.

The 39-year-old Marave, the AF3 champion in 2003, finished eighth in 16:28.209.

"*Pag*-release *ko ng* clutch *namatay* (The engine conked out when I released the clutch)," rued the 17-year-old Sy, who raised hopes of a breakthrough Filipino win when he emerged fastest in the race for pole position Saturday. "*Buti na lang nag*-start *ulit* (Good thing, it fired again)."

For Peña, also 17, just making the podium was good enough.

"I was happy to just start," said the Brent International School senior student. "We had problems with the gear box and luckily we were able to fix it before the race."

Sy and Peña are eyeing strong finishes in the afternoon eighth round where O'Hara hopes to strike again.

"I'm really very happy," said O'Hara, who finally ended a victory drought after ruling the final leg of last year's series in Rosario, Batangas. "I really didn't expect to win from sixth on the grid."

Irishman Lee Farrell of Shell Helix Kinetic PCSO wound up sixth and topped the Promotion class for cars with chassis built in 1999 or older in 16:10.135.

Trailing him was Indonesia's Moreno Suprato (16:11.617) of Denso Hanjin Joson F3, Ireland's Greg Murphy (16:43.606) of Team Goddard-Minardi Team Asia and Filipino JP Tuason (16:51.556) of Tuason Racing School.

Enzo Pastor of Team TEC Pilipinas got stalled right at the start and limped home in 15:52.970 after being lapped by the leaders.

Longshot takes Mid-Am Open by four strokes

LIPA CITY—Jingy Tuason outsteadied Tommy Manotoc and two Philippine team mainstays on Saturday, carving out a two-under-par 70 in stifling heat to rule the 4th Active Group Mid-Am Open at Club Malarayat here.

The 45-year-old longshot humbled the big guns with consistent all-around play, finishing with a two-under-par 142 to beat Manotoc (74) by four and Boyet Saragoza (70) by five.

Jun Bernis was another two strokes behind in fourth after posting a 76 at the Mounts Malipunyo and Lobo nines of the Malarayat here, with Abe Rosal, the 2003 winner, ballooning to a 77 for 150 and fifth place.

Defending champion Dave Hernandez, the inaugural winner in 2002, carded a 76 (153) for eighth in the 36-hole event co-presented by Active Group and Pacsports.

Tied with Manotoc going to the 10th, Tuason nailed a chip shot from the greenside rough for birdie even as Manotoc bogeyed in what became the turning point of the duel.

Tuason's only claim to fame until yesterday was reaching the semifinals of the 1998 RP Amateurs where he lost to Richie Garcia. He praised Malarayat chair Antonio Turalba and his staff for a well-organized tournament.

Raul Montealto ran away with the Open II title, shooting a 77 for a 158. Herman Hirang and Paul Hubilla finished 10 shots behind with identical 168s after 86s.

Taguig takes on Valencia

VALENCIA CITY—Mayor Freddie Tinga's Forward Taguig cagers open their southern campaign in the 2005 Panasonic-NBC national basketball championship today when they face Valencia Golden Harvest at 7 p.m. at the city gym here. Taguig is favored over Mayor Jose Galario Jr.'s Valencia five.

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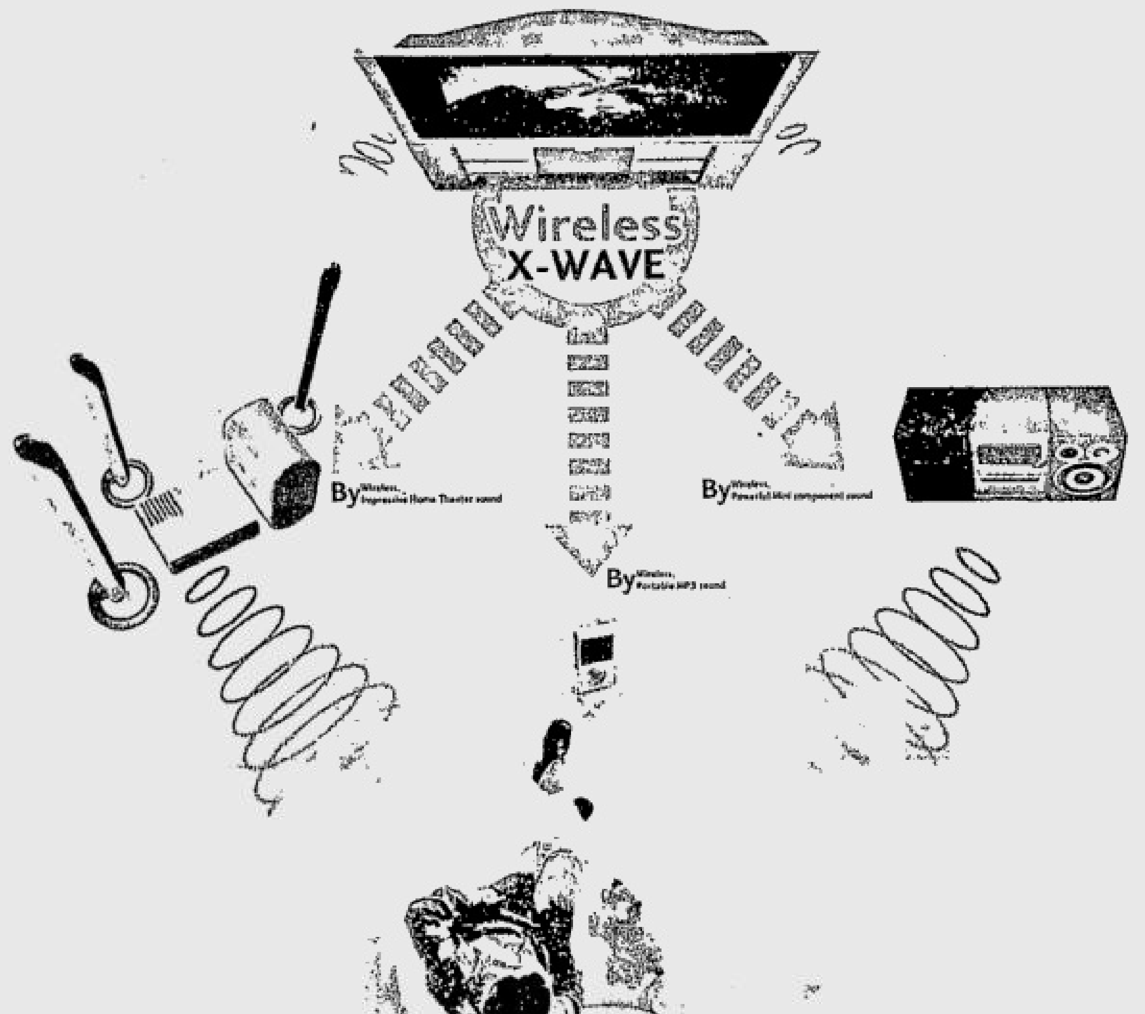
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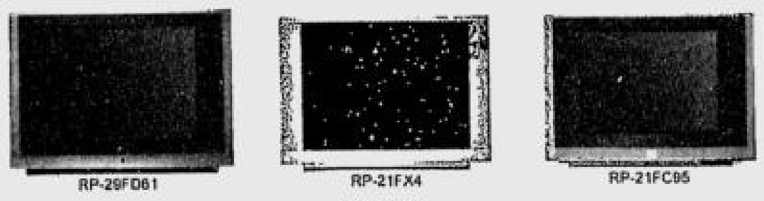

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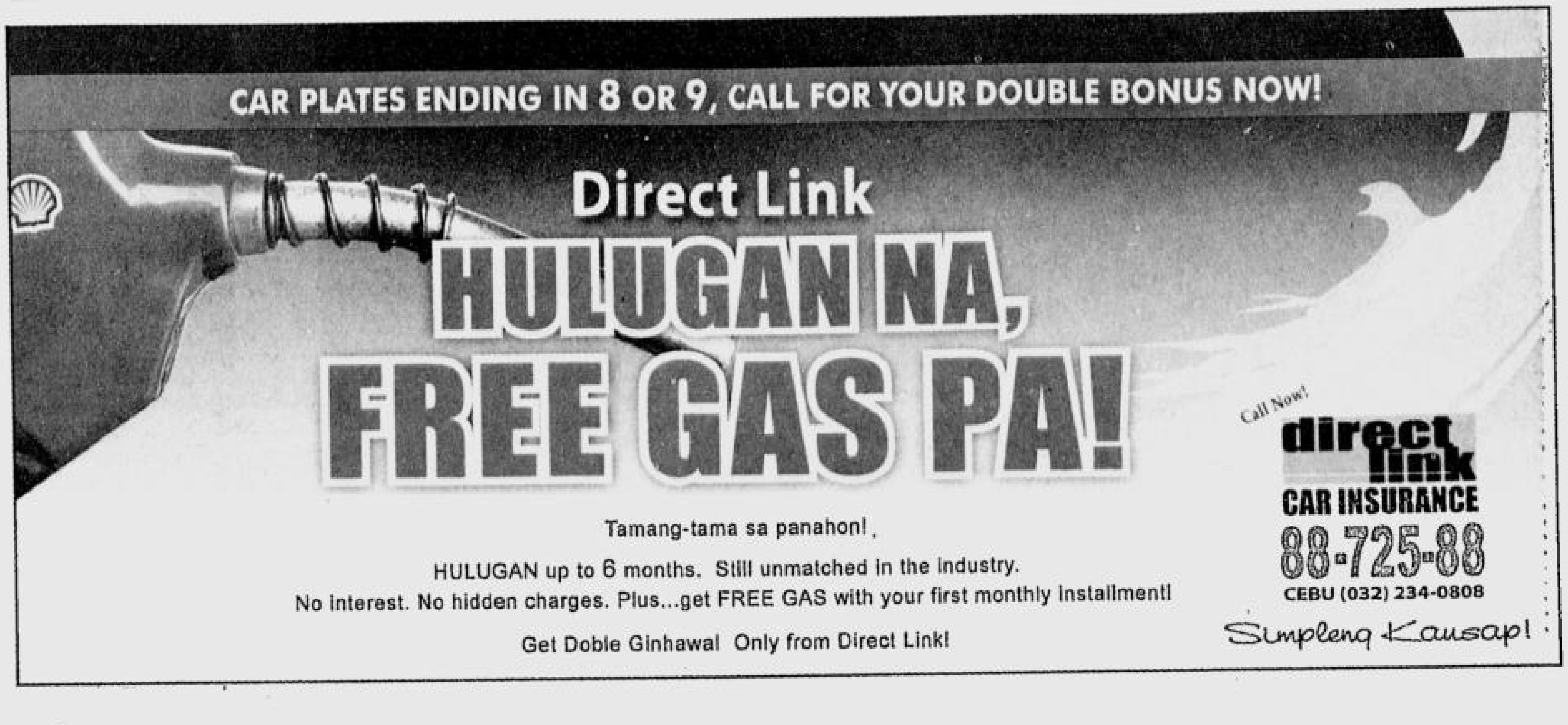

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In, Las Piñas, SM Southmall Premiere Cinemas 1,3,4
In Cebu SM Cebu Premiere Cinemas 1,2,3

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September 2005
SM Megamall
Cinema 10

Martin Nievera
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September 10, 2005
Saturday• 8:30pm
SM Southmall
Cinema 3

Jasmine Trias
Fil-American Idol
LIVE IN CONCERT
WITH SPECIAL GUEST: SOUTHBORDER
September 10, 2005
Saturday• 8:30pm
SM Megamall
Cinema 10

Christine Bellen's
MGA KUWENTO NI LOLA BASYANG
August 25 -27 2005
September 1-3, 2005
10 am and 3 pm
(with 7pm show on Saturday)
SM Centerpoint
Cinema 5

Actor's Actors, INC & Little Boy Production
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08:30LFS/09:00LMF/10:45END

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09:10LFS/09:30LMF/11:30END

2 THE ISLAND
12:00FS/12:10MF/02:30/04:50/07:10
09:25LFS/09:30LMF/11:45END

3 THE GREAT RAID
11:20FS/11:30MF/02:00/04:30/07:00
09:10LFS/09:30LFS/11:40END

METRO MANILA

SM MEGAMALL
1 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
3 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
4 D' ANOTHERS
5 BELGIAN FILM FESTIVAL
6 BEWITCHED
7 PUSANG GALA
8 SHAOLIN vs. STONE WARRIOR
9 SKY HIGH
10 SKELETON KEY
11 THE GREAT RAID
12 MUST LOVE DOGS

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
1 SHAOLIN vs. STONE WARRIOR
2 STEALTH
3 D' ANOTHERS
4 THE GREAT RAID
5 BEWITCHED
6 SKELETON KEY
7 SKY HIGH
8 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
9 MUST LOVE DOGS
10 THE EYE INFINITY
11 IF ONLY
12 PUSANG GALA

SM NORTH EDSA
1 SKELETON KEY
2 BEWITCHED
3 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
4 D' ANOTHERS
5 PUSANG GALA
6 MUST LOVE DOGS
7 SKY HIGH
8 THE GREAT RAID

SM CITY MANILA
1 SKELETON KEY
2 BEWITCHED
3 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
4 THE GREAT RAID
5 MUST LOVE DOGS
6 SKY HIGH
7 THE EYE INFINITY
8 IF ONLY
9 D' ANOTHERS
10 WEDDING CRASHERS
11 SHAOLIN vs. STONE WARRIOR
12 PUSANG GALA

SM CITY STA MESA
1 SKY HIGH
2 SKELETON KEY
3 THE GREAT RAID
4 MUST LOVE DOGS
5 MGA KWENTO NI LOLA BASYANG
6 SHAOLIN vs. STONE WARRIOR
7 PUSANG GALA
8 BEWITCHED
9 D' ANOTHERS
10 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY

SM CITY SOUTHMALL
1 SKELETON KEY
2 SKY HIGH
3 THE GREAT RAID
4 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
5 PUSANG GALA
6 SHAOLIN vs. STONE WARRIOR
7 BEWITCHED
8 STEALTH
9 D' ANOTHERS
10 PUSANG GALA

SM SAN LAZARO
1 SKY HIGH
2 SKELETON KEY
3 BEWITCHED
4 D' ANOTHERS
5 MUST LOVE DOGS
6 THE GREAT RAID

SM SUPERCENTER SUCAT
1 SKY HIGH
2 SKELETON KEY
3 THE GREAT RAID
4 MUST LOVE DOGS

SM CITY BICUTAN
1 THEGREAT RAID
2 SKY HIGH
3 MUST LOVE DOGS
4 SKELETON KEY

LUZON

SM CITY PAMPANGA
1 WEDDING CRASHERS
2 STEALTH
3 CRASH
4 THE EYE INFINITY
5 SKY HIGH
6 D' ANOTHERS

SM CITY BACOOR
1 STEALTH
2 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
3 THE GREAT RAID
4 SHAOLIN vs. STONE WARRIOR
5 SKY HIGH
6 D' ANOTHERS
7 MUST LOVE DOGS
8 THE ISLAND

SM CITY DASMARINAS
1 ARAHAN
2 D' ANOTHERS
3 HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE TO THE GALAXY
4 WEDDING CRASHERS

SM CITY LUCENA
1 STEALTH
2 D' ANOTHERS
3 YEAR OF THE YAO
4 THE MACHINIST

SM CITY BAGUIO
1 WEDDING CRASHERS
2 STEALTH
3 D' ANOTHERS
4 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY

SM CITY MARILAO
1 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
2 D' ANOTHERS
3 THE EYE INFINITY
4 SIN CITY

SM CITY BATANGAS
1 YEAR OF THE YAO
2 D' ANOTHERS
3 STEALTH
4 WEDDING CRASHERS

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

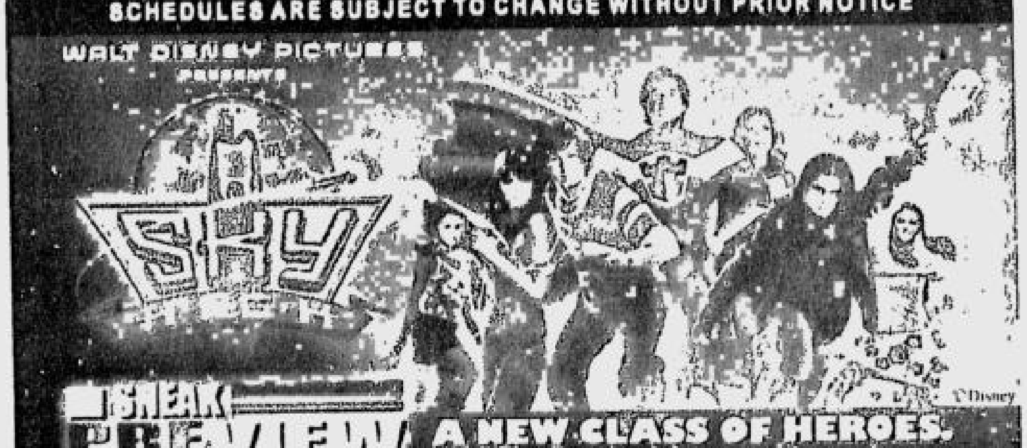
SM CITY CEBU
1 STEALTH
2 THE ISLAND
3 THE GREAT RAID
4 IF ONLY
5 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
6 ARAHAN
7 D' ANOTHERS
8 CRASH

SM CITY ILOILO
1 THE EYE INFINITY
2 RESERVED
3 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
4 D' ANOTHERS
5 WEDDING CRASHERS
6 STEALTH
7 RESERVED
8 THE MACHINIST

SM CITY DAVAO
1 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
2 ARAHAN
3 D' ANOTHERS
4 THE EYE INFINITY
5 WEDDING CRASHERS
6 BEWITCHED

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
1 THE MACHINIST
2 WEDDING CRASHERS
3 CRASH
4 STEALTH

SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE



SNEAK PREVIEW A NEW CLASS OF HEROES.

Be the first to watch on August 22 and August 23 at the following branches:

North EDSA
Megamall
Manila
Pampanga
Sta. Mesa
Sucat
Southmall
San Lazaro
Fairview
Bacoor
Bicutan

Regular Showing on AUGUST 31 at SM Cinemas

MTRCB Rating: G (All Ages Admitted)

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MOVIE LISTING, MTRCB RATING, SCREENING SCHEDULES AND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA

OPENS WEDNESDAY

FROM THE PRODUCER OF 'SHREK' & 'SHREK 2'

Ewan McGregor as "Valiant", the heroic wood pigeon who joins the Royal Homing Pigeon Service to save his country from the forces of evil.

FOR LOVE
FOR HONOR
FOR COUNTRY

VALIANT

RELEASED IN THE U.S.A. BY DISNEY.

GREENHILLS CINEMAS
GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA

THEATRE MALL GREENHILLS
a landmark reinvented!

NOW SHOWING

Cinema	Title	Times
1	MUST LOVE DOGS PG13	12:10, 2:35, 5:00, 7:25, 9:50
2	THE GREAT RAID PG13	12:30, 3:15, 6:00, 8:50

DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

PROMENADE GREENHILLS
...a dinetertainment for all!

NOW SHOWING

Cinema	Title	Times
3	SKELETON KEY PG13	11:10, 1:25, 3:40, 5:55, 8:10, 10:25
4	SKY HIGH - PG13 Advance Screening	11:00, 1:15, 3:30, 5:45, 8:00, 10:15
5	MUST LOVE DOGS PG13	11:00, 1:20, 3:40, 6:00, 8:20, 10:40

TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, CALL: 722 4496.

MUSIC MUSEUM

September 2 & 3	MOJO FLY	8:30PM
Sept 15,22,23,24	JOAQUIN & FAITH CUNETA "ONE"	9PM

FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL : 721-6726 OR 721-0635

EASTWOOD CINEMAS

DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City
E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. (C-5) Quezon City

For inquiries, call:
687-6963
GUARANTEED SEATS
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

Cinema	Title	Times	Rating
1	SKELETON KEY	1:05, 3:35, 6:05 8:35, 11:00	PG-13
2	MUST LOVE DOGS	1:05, 3:35, 6:05 8:35, 11:00	PG-13
3	BEWITCHED	1:20, 3:45, 6:10 8:35, 11:00	GP
4	THE GREAT RAID	11:55, 2:45, 5:35 8:25, 11:00	PG-13

POWER PLANT CINEMA

Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41

DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY G - 1:45,4:15 MUST LOVE DOGS - PG13 6:30,8:50	SKY HIGH GP 1:35,3:45,5:55, 8:05,10:15	SKELETON KEY PG13 1:10,3:30,5.50,8:10,10:30
BEWITCHED GP 12:55,3:15,5.35,7:55,10:15	GREAT RAID PG13 12:00,2.40,5:20,8:00	MUST LOVE DOGS PG13 12:30,2 50,5:10, 7:30,9:50

Awesome Eur

By Edwin Villanueva
Contributor

THE LONGER the distance, the better for Euro Bucks.

Displaying awesome power over 1,750 meters, Hermie Esguerra's filly proved a cut
2005 Lakam
San Lazaro I

It was the
galloper bre
Putch Puyat
was not bot

Woods, share N

AKRON, Ohio—Tiger Woods had a two-shot lead at the NEC Invitational when storms approached and play was stopped for three hours.

He returned to hit three full shots—none of them good—and fell into a tie for the lead Saturday when the third round was suspended.

After spending 10 hours during an on-again, off-again day at Firestone, Woods was tied with Kenny Perry at 7 under with three holes that he'll have to finish Sunday morning.

Perry is not through, either.

Thanks to two birdie putts from off the green, Perry was 6 under for his round and facing a 10-foot birdie putt on the 18th hole for a chance to shoot 63.

Paul McGinley of Ireland was another shot back through 15 holes, while Stuart Appleby reached the 667-yard 16th hole in two shots for the second time this week and was 5 under through 16 holes. Two-time Masters champion Jose Maria Olazabal finished
round with a 66
and was the
clubhouse leader at 4-under
206.

"The day
was great. The
ending was not,
said.

He was rep
pitch mark on
when the siren
stop play the sc
and Perry has bee
Tour long enough
to expect—a retu
Sunday to navigat
7,360-yard cours
five hours of dea
final round starts.

At least the
chance to finish.
storms, tee times
hours with hope t
be completed. La
Championship, te
alone for the fin
overwhelming evi
and the final majo
over to Monday m

Rosales withdraws; Del

PORTLAND, Oregon—South Korea's Kang Soo-yun moved into position for her first victory in three full seasons on the LPGA Tour, shooting a 4-under 68 on Saturday to take a three-stroke lead into the final round of the Safeway Classic.

Jennifer Rosales of the Philippines, who shot
withdrew after s
front nine of the

Dorothy Del
lowed her first r
81, missed the cu

Two other Kor
and British Ope
Jang were tied at

Tough task for RP

I HOPE I'm wrong, but in my view host Philippines will not make much impact in the 23rd Southeast Asian Games from Nov. 27 to Dec. 5. At best, the country could end up third or settle for fourth, the same finish it reached in the SEA Games in Vietnam two years ago.

As the outspoken Michael Keon, the RP training director, said: "Those who think we are on target for the overall title are just being optimistic."

Widely credited for the tremendous success of Philippine athletics in the 1980s when he served as executive director of the now defunct Project: Gintong Alay, Keon said the training of the athletes for this year's SEA Games is way behind schedule. He added that the country could also be losing its homecourt advantage because of the lack of training venues and equipment.

"That (Keon's apprehension) is unfair," lamented Philippine Olympic Committee chair Robert Aventajado, stressing that the "true homecourt advantage is the local crowd that will go to the venues to cheer the Filipino athletes."

In 1991, when the Philippines hosted the SEA Games, it finished a strong second behind the backing of a highly partisan crowd, losing the overall championship to Indonesia by a lone gold medal. Without the homecourt advantage in the subsequent SEA Games, the Filipinos dropped to third in Singapore in 1993 and Thailand in 1995, fourth in Indonesia in 1997, a dismal fifth in Brunei in 1999 and Malaysia in 2001 and fourth in Vietnam in 2003.

The record will show that in the last two stagings of the SEA Games, the host country always finished first (Malaysia in 2001) and (Vietnam in 2003). Will history be on our side this time?

The prevailing hard times do not augur well for the local SEAG organizers, who are, at this late stage, still facing many problems such as the shortage of funds, abse
adequate v
deep divisi
Philippine S
nizing Com

Take Ph
Pagdangan

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out of defea

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fought back
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that all
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Obet ha

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"Obet has
sports even

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"Peping"
Sports Co
"Butch" Ra
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sponsorship
used to be

CLEAN

Manol
R. Iñig

Big guns join LPC derby

THE COUNTRY'S most prominent cockers and breeders have signed up for the P1 million Annual Las Piñas 6-Stag Derby slated this Thursday and Saturday at the Las Piñas Coliseum. Participants include 2005 World Slasher champion Boy Marso, Patrick Antonio, Dicky Lim, Boy de Roca, former Sen. Ramon Revilla, Lito Orillaza and Rudy Salud of WTJ Group, Butch Macasaet, Rudy Albano, Ito Yñares, Rep. Butch Pichay and Rep. Jing Paras and the Jingco Brothers. Entry fee is P15,000. The derby sponsored by Sagupaan Complexor is

Sp

hosted by
quiries, call 8

Bates'

Makati Colise
bies, will be
Derby on Au
Richard Bate
with an entry
screening an
0916-31569

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ro Bucks simply too good for old foes

ıbove her three rivals in the ıini Stakes yesterday at the ·isure Park.

first time the 3-year-old bay l by former Marho boss ıegotiated the route but she ered at all, storming to the payoff line with an eight-length margin.

"She's in tip-top shape and she handled the distance very well," said victorious rider Jesse Guce in Filipino.

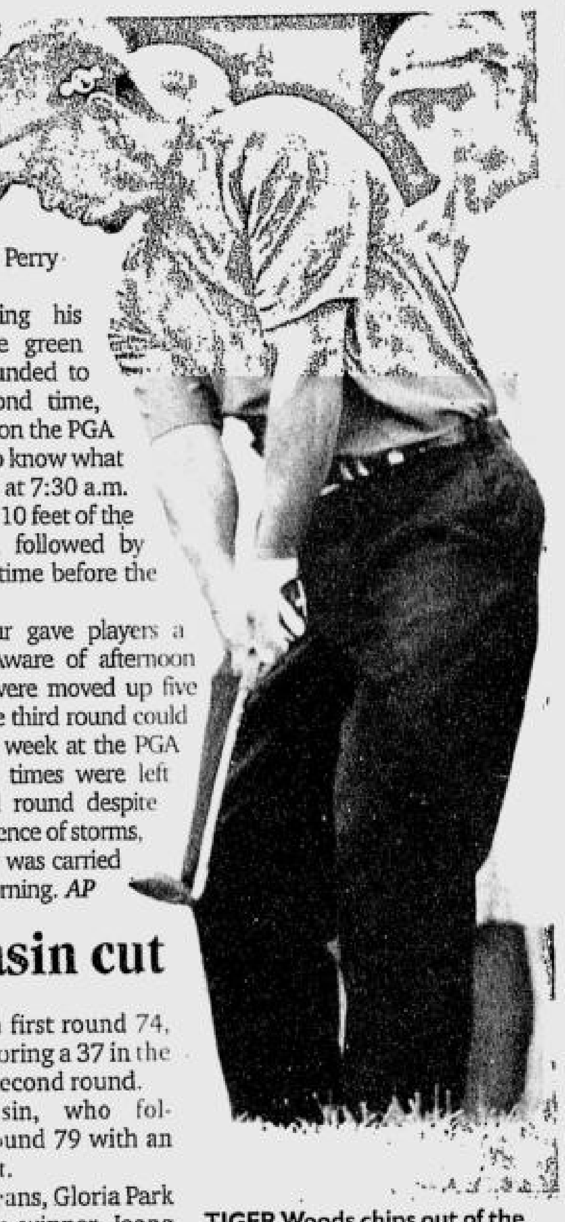
Euro Bucks, who rewarded Esguerra with the P450,000 first prize, handily beat the same bunch over 1,500 meters in the Hopeful Stakes last July 24 and she dumped them again over the seldom-disputed distance which she covered in a fast 1 minute 51.5 seconds (10-23-24.5-25-29).

Earlier, trial race last-placer Kaiphia snatched first spot in the event that mattered most, shocking the field with a wire-to-wire triumph in the Sweepstakes Maiden over 1,400 meters.

Brilliantly handled by Pat Dilema, Kaiphia, a 2-year-old bay filly sired by Treasure Cay out of Misty Rose, bagged P300,000 for Bienvenido "Pierre" Niles III.

Perry EC lead

ıis



TIGER Woods chips out of the rough at No. 15. REUTERS

Perry

ıiring his he green ounded to cond time, ı on the PGA o know what n at 7:30 a.m. 10 feet of the , followed by time before the

ur gave players a Aware of afternoon were moved up five e third round could week at the PGA times were left l round despite ence of storms, r was carried rning. *AP*

sin cut

ı first round 74, oring a 37 in the econd round. sin, who folund 79 with an t.

ans, Gloria Park ı winner Jeong 9-under. *AP*

n Games

LIVING

)

)

ce of public awareness, innues, lack of publicity and a n within the ranks of the utheast Asian Games Orgaittee (Philsoc).

soc chair Roberto "Obet" n as an example.

hing personal against Obet, make a lot of people really steps down as Philsoc chair *leza.*

wers was clipped by Presiıgal-Arroyo last Aug. 8, but cepting his relief order, he y issuing statements which rpose except to exacerbate . It only showed the world ot well with the way our untry is hosting the Games. it coming.

han three months to go be. Games, the President was e slow progress being made oup. There was no noise, ıg, a SEAG diehard said. experience in running a of this magnitude."

relieved Pagdanganan of uties and named Philippine ommittee president Jose juangco and Philippine nmission chair William irez Philsoc chief executive chief operating officer, reensure the smooth opera.EAG. Cojuangco, in particv have the authority to alloburse funds and enter into contracts, functions which ıg to Pagdanganan.

Bedan golf war kicks off

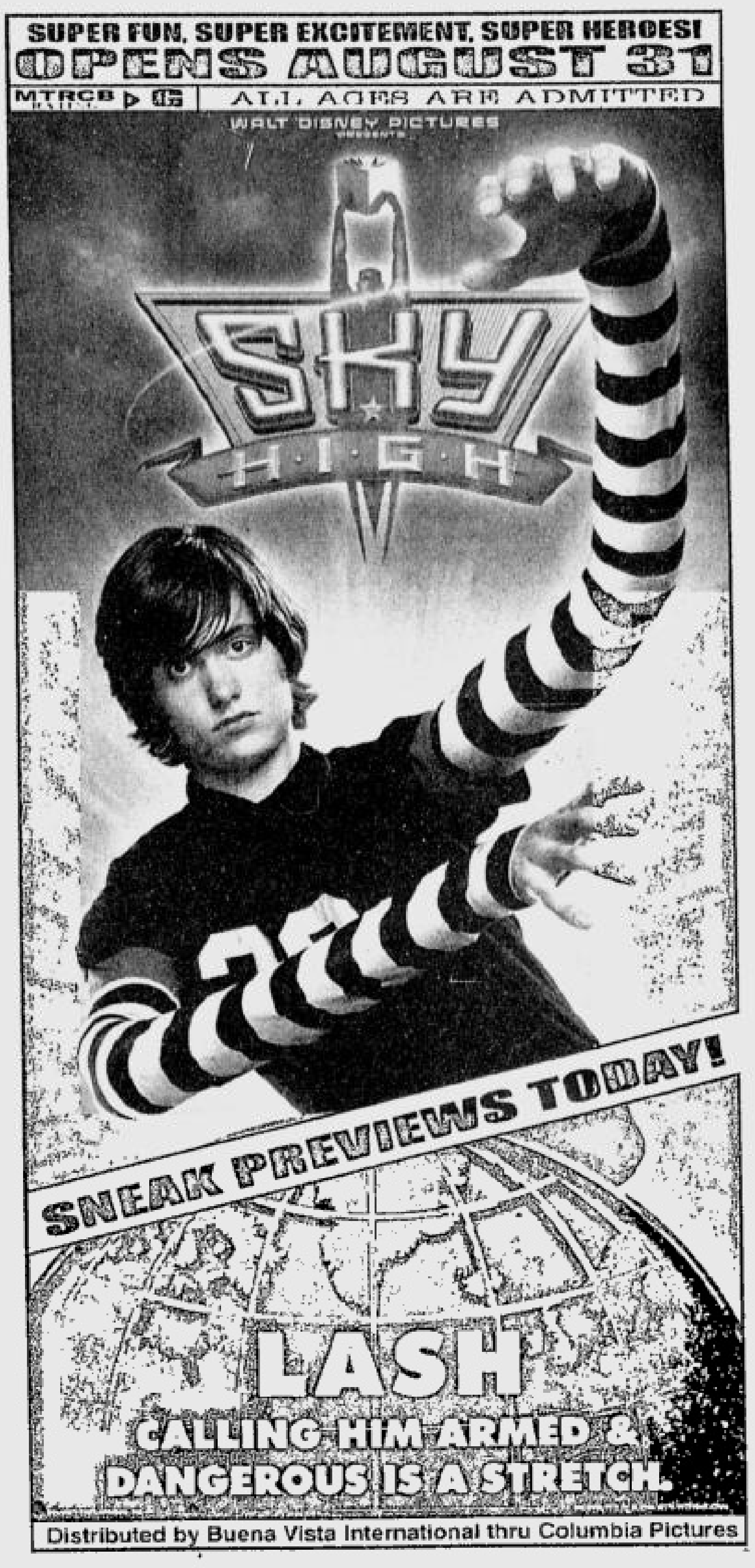
THE SAN Beda War of the Decades golf tournament kicks off at 7:30 a.m. today at Forest Hills in Antipolo. The tournament is organized by the San Beda Law golf club. Any lawyer who studied at least four semesters at San Beda is eligible to play in the event where the participants will be divided into three teams representing three decades.

ORTSWATCH

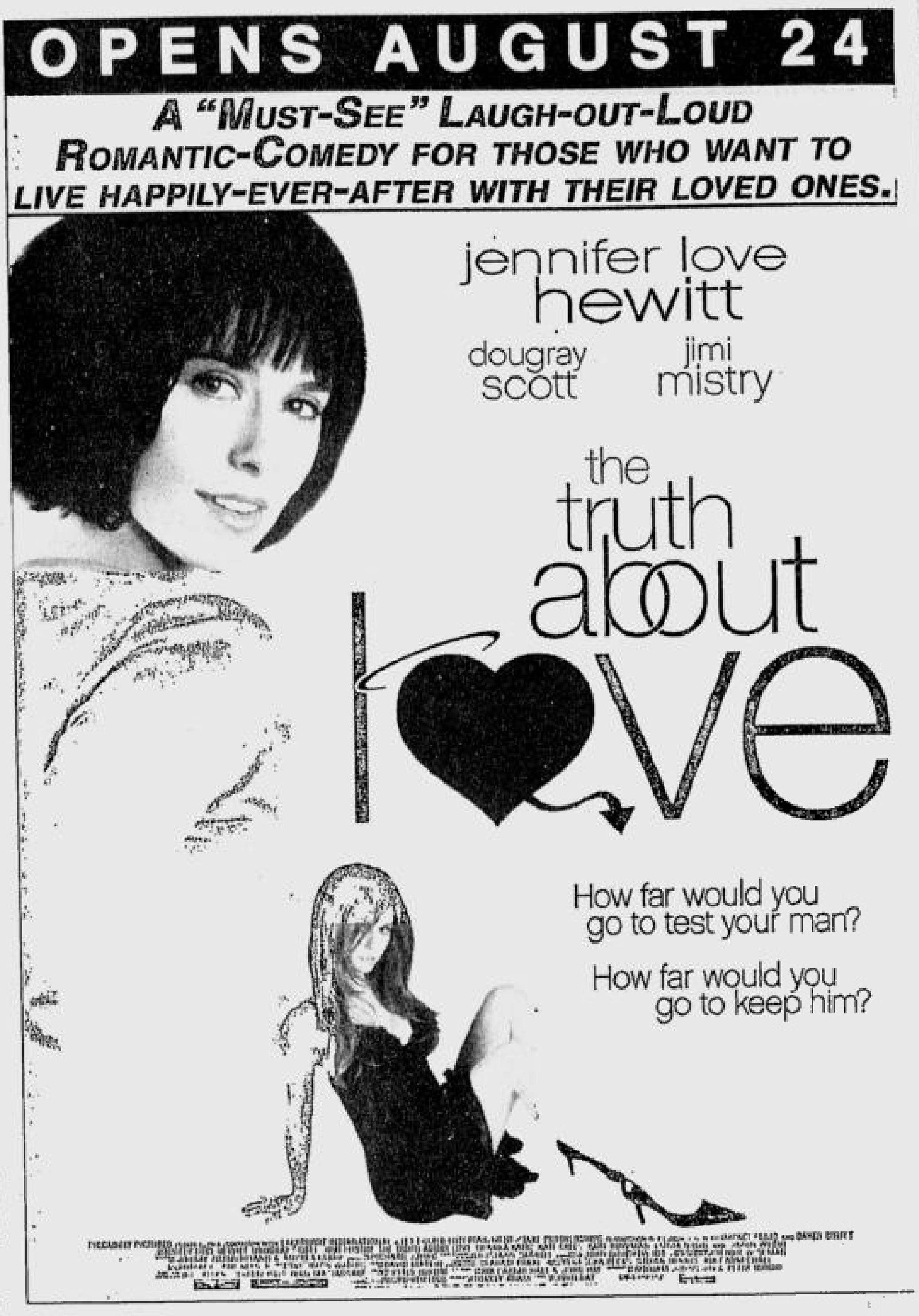
ner Mayor Nene Aguilar. For In3-1040 or 874-3910.

stagfest all set

ım, the new home of major dere venue of the RL Bates 7-Stag 29 and 31. Popular breeder host of the P700,000 stagfest ee of P16,500, will conduct the wingbanding. For inquiries, call 1, 046-4140750 or 723-8412.



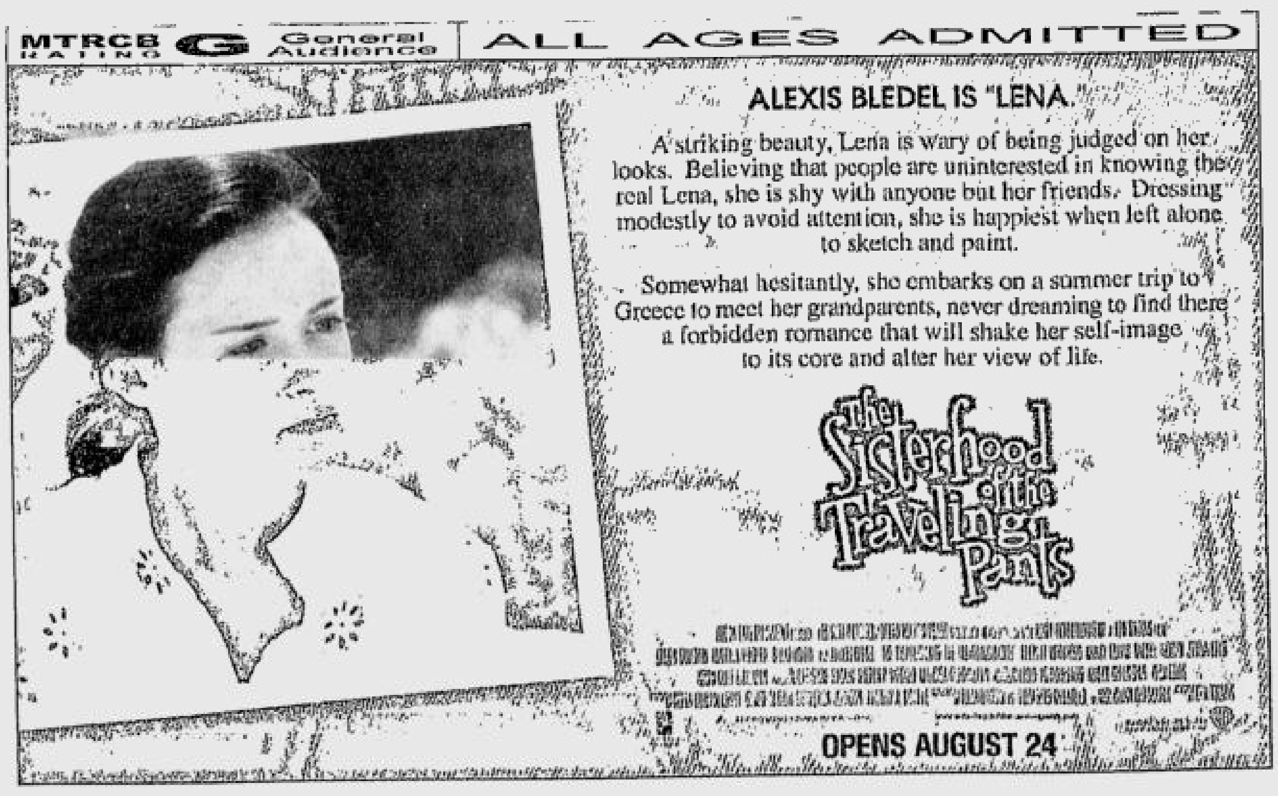
SUPER FUN, SUPER EXCITEMENT, SUPER HEROES!
OPENS AUGUST 31
MTRCB RATING G ALL AGES ARE ADMITTED
WALT DISNEY PICTURES presents
SKY HIGH
SNEAK PREVIEWS TODAY!
LASH
CALLING HIM ARMED & DANGEROUS IS A STRETCH.
Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures



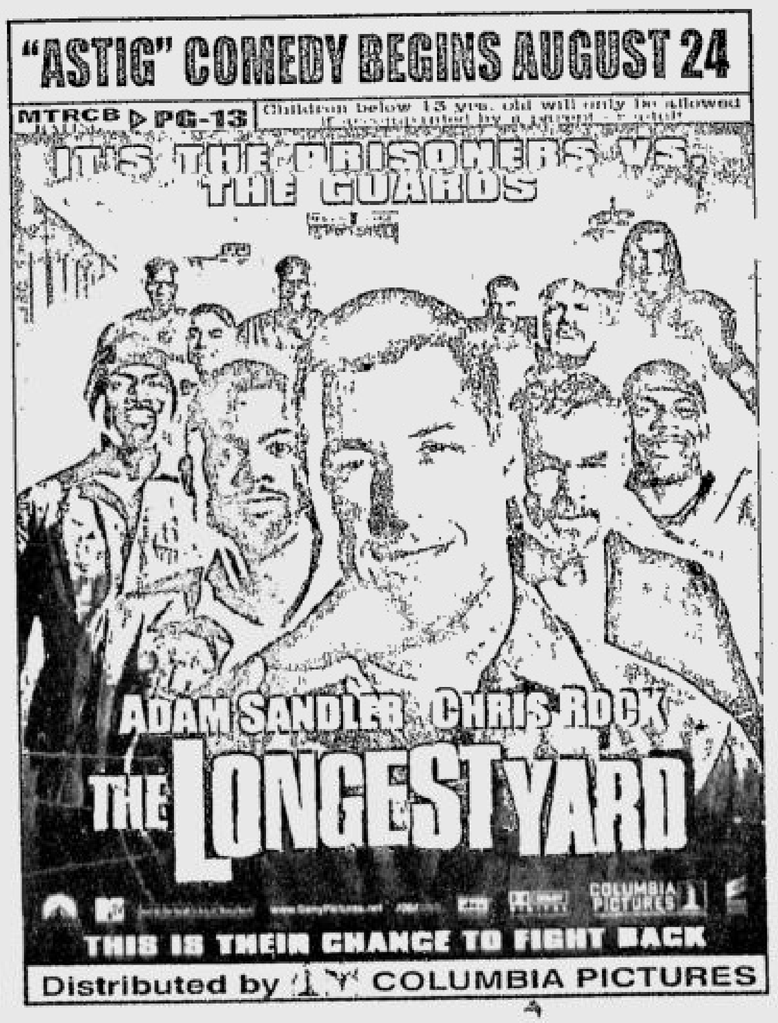
OPENS AUGUST 24
A "MUST-SEE" LAUGH-OUT-LOUD ROMANTIC-COMEDY FOR THOSE WHO WANT TO LIVE HAPPILY-EVER-AFTER WITH THEIR LOVED ONES.
jennifer love hewitt
dougray scott
jimi mistry
the truth about love
How far would you go to test your man?
How far would you go to keep him?

MTRCB RATING R-13 | STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND ABOVE | GRADED B - CINEMA EVALUATION BOARD www.pusanggala.com | NOW SHOWING
It's sexy, witty, it's delightful
"If the indie film 'Mga Pusa... is anything to go by, Filipino movies are more likely to recover faster than Filipino politics."
-Conrado de Quiros
Mga Pusang Gala
TANGA LANG TAYO PAGKATAPOS NG LAHAT, PERO HABANG TAYO'Y UMIIBIG, TAYO'Y MGA DIYOSA...DAKILA AT WALANG KAPARA.
ALAM MO BANG KAHIT ANG GOLDFISH AY MAY PUSO?

NOW SHOWING
MTRCB RATING PG-13 | Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
The Spirits of the Mighty Xi'an Warriors are Unleashed by an Evil Force
From the action choreographer of "SHAOLIN SOCCER"
SHAOLIN vs. STONE WARRIORS



MTRCB RATING G General Audience | ALL AGES ADMITTED
ALEXIS BLEDEL IS "LENA."
A striking beauty, Lena is wary of being judged on her looks. Believing that people are uninterested in knowing the real Lena, she is shy with anyone but her friends. Dressing modestly to avoid attention, she is happiest when left alone to sketch and paint.
Somewhat hesitantly, she embarks on a summer trip to Greece to meet her grandparents, never dreaming to find there a forbidden romance that will shake her self-image to its core and alter her view of life.
The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants
OPENS AUGUST 24



"ASTIG" COMEDY BEGINS AUGUST 24
MTRCB PG-13 | Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
IT'S THE PRISONERS VS. THE GUARDS
ADAM SANDLER CHRIS ROCK
THE LONGEST YARD
THIS IS THEIR CHANCE TO FIGHT BACK
Distributed by COLUMBIA PICTURES

MTRCB RATING PG-13 now showing
"SHIVERS DOWN THE SPINE, A RACING HEART...ONE MUST SEE MOVIE." -Yahoo Movies
FROM THE WRITER OF THE RING
THE SKELETON KEY
FEARING IS BELIEVING
Kate Hudson Gena Rowlands Peter Sarsgaard and John Hurt
Solar Entertainment Corporation
A UNIVERSAL PICTURE

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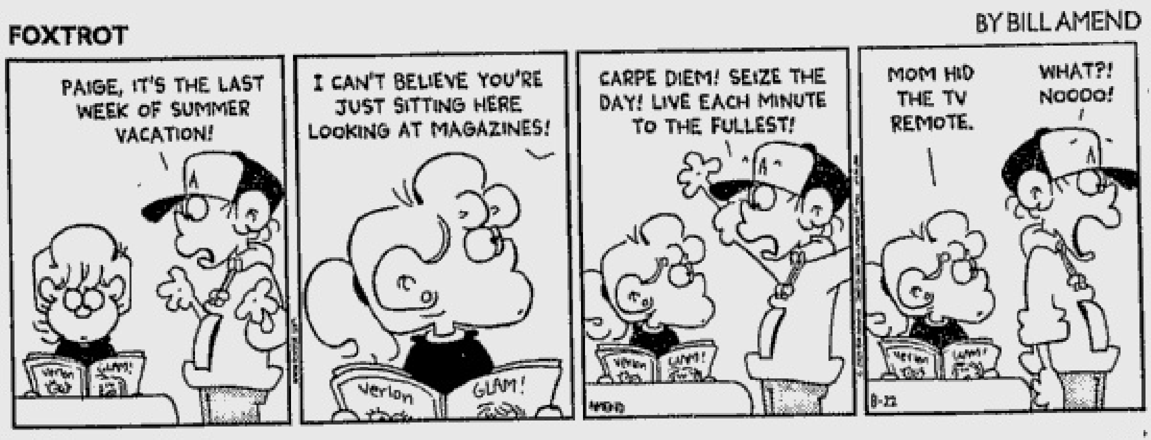
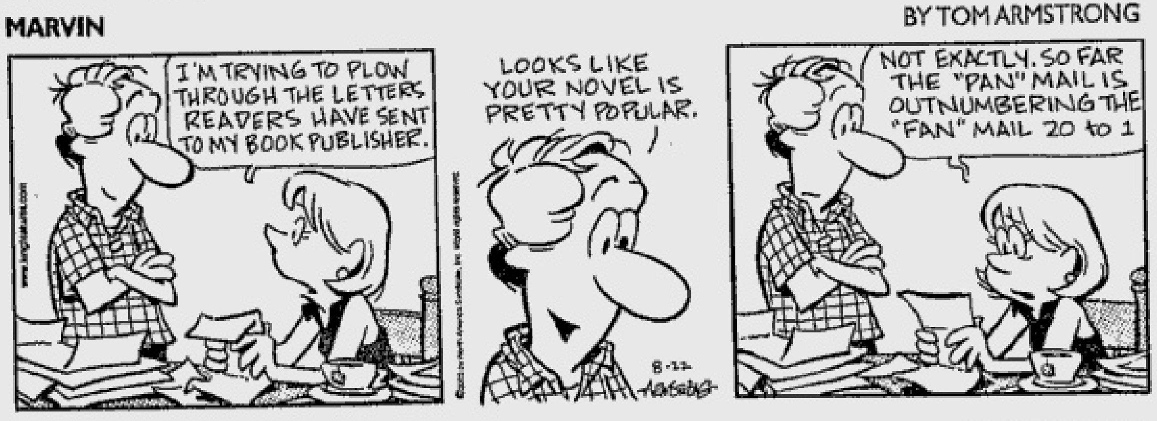
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


PAIGE, IT'S THE LAST WEEK OF SUMMER VACATION!
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE JUST SITTING HERE LOOKING AT MAGAZINES!
CARPE DIEM! SEIZE THE DAY! LIVE EACH MINUTE TO THE FULLEST!
MOM HID THE TV REMOTE.
WHAT?! NOOOO!
Verlon
GLAM!
AMEND
8-22

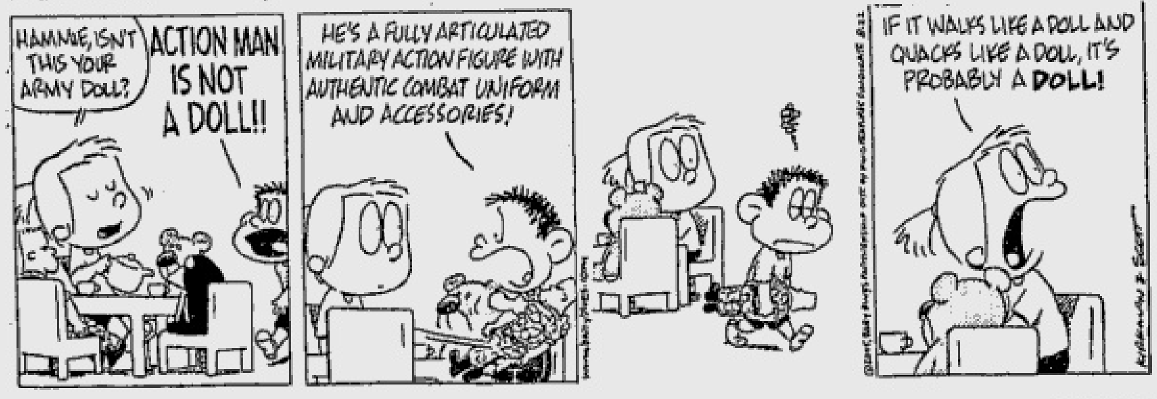
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


I'M TRYING TO PLOW THROUGH THE LETTERS READERS HAVE SENT TO MY BOOK PUBLISHER.
LOOKS LIKE YOUR NOVEL IS PRETTY POPULAR.
NOT EXACTLY. SO FAR THE "PAN" MAIL IS OUTNUMBERING THE "FAN" MAIL 20 to 1
8-22

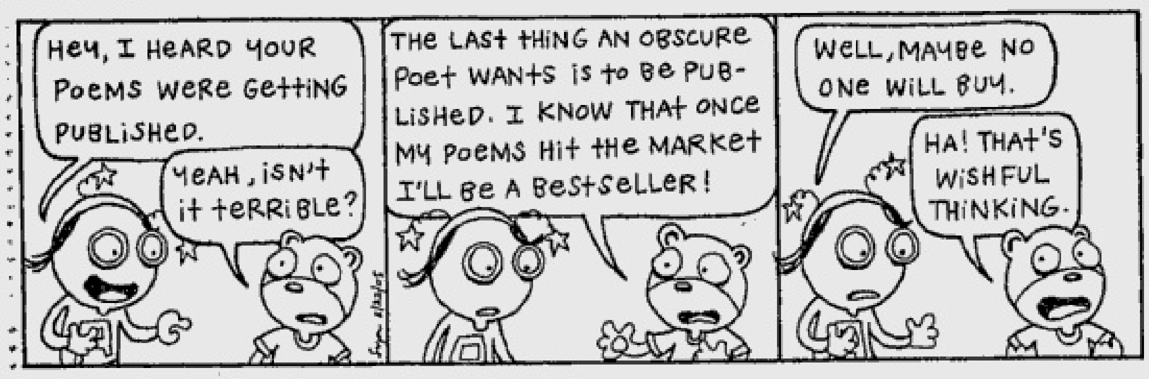
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


HAMMIE, ISN'T THIS YOUR ARMY DOLL?
ACTION MAN IS NOT A DOLL!!
HE'S A FULLY ARTICULATED MILITARY ACTION FIGURE WITH AUTHENTIC COMBAT UNIFORM AND ACCESSORIES!
IF IT WALKS LIKE A DOLL AND QUACKS LIKE A DOLL, IT'S PROBABLY A DOLL!

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


Hey, I HeARD your Poems were Getting PUBLiSheD.
yeAH, iSN't it teRRiBLe?
The LAst thiNG AN oBSCURe Poet WANtS is to Be PUBLiSheD. I KNOW THAt oNCe My Poems Hit the MARKet I'LL Be A BestSeLLeR!
WeLL, MAyBe No oNe WiLL BUy.
HA! THAt'S WiSHFUL THiNKiNG.

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're resourceful and spontaneous. You generally succeed at whatever you attempt. Partnerships are important to you. You need someone cheering you on from the sidelines. You can do the work, but you like encouragement. You like pretty things. The year ahead is full of exciting beginnings.
Birthdate of: Tori Amos, singer; Valerie Harper, actress; Dorothy Parker, author/poet.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): In the next few weeks, your energy builds. Suddenly, you want to get organized in every aspect of your life. Capitalize on this! Get to work.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): A playful, romantic month awaits you. All creative projects are favored. This is a wonderful time to go on a vacation. In the next few weeks, playful activities with children figure prominently.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): During the month ahead, your attention swings to home, family and real estate matters. You might even want to redecorate or renovate where you live. You want more beauty!

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): The next six weeks are busy! Short trips, discussions with siblings and relatives, reading and writing, plus shopping, buying and selling, and negotiating all keep you on the go!

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Your attention now turns to financial matters. You might want to buy something important, but you also want to straighten out your finances. Figure out what you have and what you owe. Get the facts.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): This is your turn to re-energize and replenish yourself for the rest of the year. The Sun is in your sign for the next four weeks, recharging your batteries!

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): In the next few weeks, take a back seat if you can. Work alone. Try to get more solitude. You need time to pull your act together and mellow out.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Expect increased popularity in the next few weeks. Everyone wants to see you! Your involvement with clubs and organizations increases now.

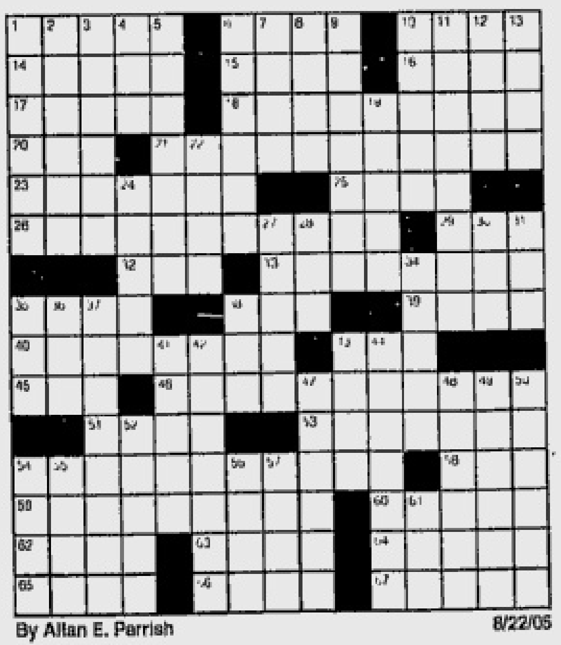
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You might be singled out for some special duties in the next few weeks. Something calls attention to you, that's for sure. Whatever you do now, you will do it well.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): You want to escape. You're hungry for a change of scenery, new faces and new places. What you really want is to learn something new.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Take a moment to figure out your debt scene in the next week or two. It's important to know what to keep and what to let go of. Define these boundaries.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): With the Sun opposite your sign now, the next four to six weeks will give you a wonderful opportunity to learn something new about yourself. Observe how you relate to those who are closest to you.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Allan E. Parrish
Mentor, OH

8/22/05

ACROSS
1 Neck cramp
6 Performer's dates
10 Guitarist Clapton
14 Burr or Copland
15 Out-of-control
16 Skin opening
17 Money-saving prefix
18 Like Mad magazine
20 Sis or bro
21 Fob
23 Not this one
25 Kisser
26 Spacecraft reverser
29 Game of marbles
32 __ Jima
33 Terrier type
35 Nonsense
38 Mom-and-pop grp.
39 "Topaz" author
40 Scholarly
43 NYC summer hours
45 Stag attendees
46 Bulb's place
51 Necklace component
53 Holds fast
54 Case list
58 Dundee turndown
59 Porous
60 Pindar, to name one
62 SSS classification
63 Part of BYOB
64 Speed contests
65 D.H. Lawrence novel, "__ and Lovers"
66 Dates regularly
67 Stock amount

DOWN
1 Roman autocrat
2 "Phaedra" dramatist
3 I. Asimov novel
4 Pro's opposite
5 Smarts
6 Stomach: pref.
7 Apple PC
8 Early invader of Rome
9 Master of a ship
10 Narrative poems
11 10A, for example
12 "Dies __"
13 Gael or Welshman
19 Way to go
22 Space leader?
24 Made an attempt
27 Hidden snag
28 Hyundai rival
30 Clay, nowadays
31 Unseld or Craven
34 Type of door
35 Traffic tie-up
36 Rink surface
37 Jackson follower
38 Slovenly person
41 Make happy
42 Noons
43 Feudal laborer
44 Hospital employees
47 Selfish sorts
48 Canon rival
49 Sketcher's need
50 Fly to avoid
52 Bombeck and others
54 Some USN noncoms
55 Wine: Pref.
56 Woodwind instrument
57 Hint for Holmes
61 Morse symbol

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

A	R	T	E	M	I	S	■	C	A	R	S	E	A	T
S	E	R	V	A	N	T	■	A	G	U	I	R	R	E
S	T	E	E	L	E	R	■	P	O	S	T	E	R	N
I	R	A	■	T	R	A	M	S	■	H	E	M	I	N
S	A	C	K	■	T	W	I	T	S	■	D	I	V	A
T	I	L	E	D	■	S	L	O	P	E	■	T	E	N
S	N	E	E	R	S	■	I	N	E	X	P	E	R	T
■	■	■	P	E	N	I	T	E	N	C	E	■	■	■
C	R	E	S	S	I	D	A	■	T	E	S	T	E	D
H	E	N	■	S	P	O	T	S	■	L	O	R	N	E
E	L	L	A	■	S	L	E	P	T	■	S	E	C	T
V	I	A	L	S	■	A	D	I	O	S	■	A	L	E
R	E	C	E	I	P	T	■	C	L	A	P	T	O	N
O	V	E	R	L	I	E	■	E	E	R	I	E	S	T
N	E	S	T	L	E	R	■	S	T	A	N	D	E	E

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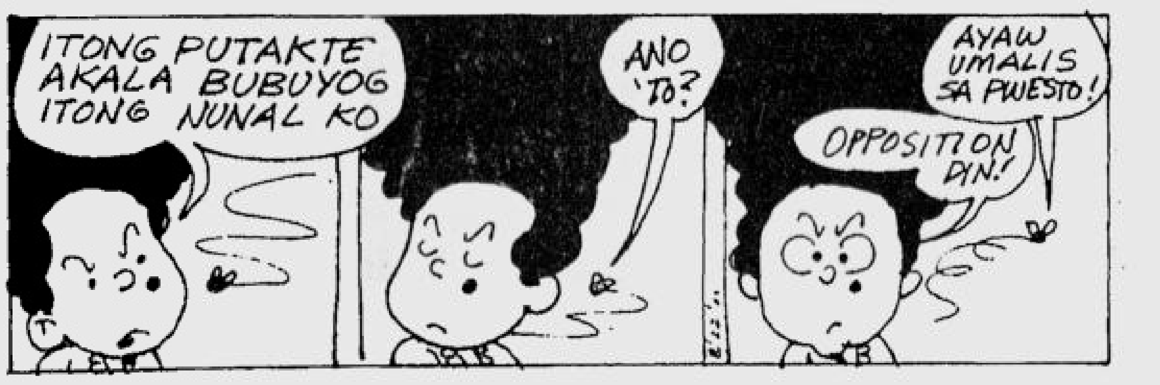
8/20/05

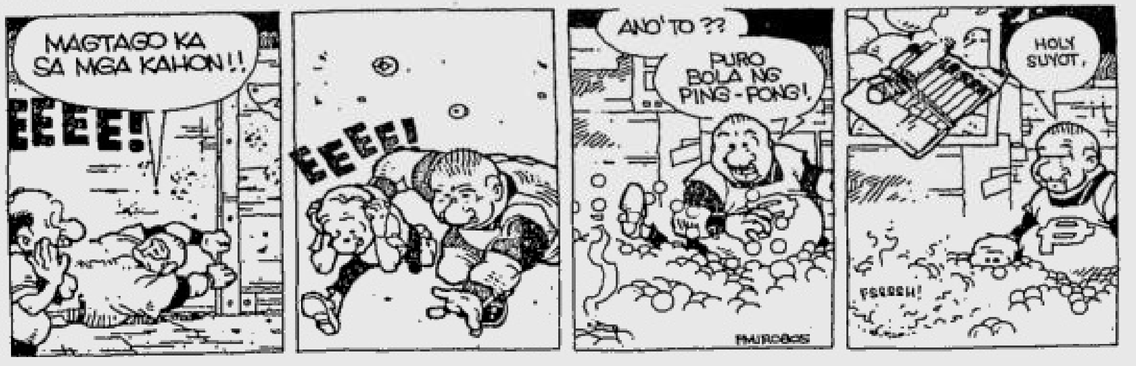
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


ITONG PUTAKTE AKALA BUBUYOG ITONG NUNAL KO
ANO 'TO?
AYAW UMALIS SA PWESTO!
OPPOSITION DIN!

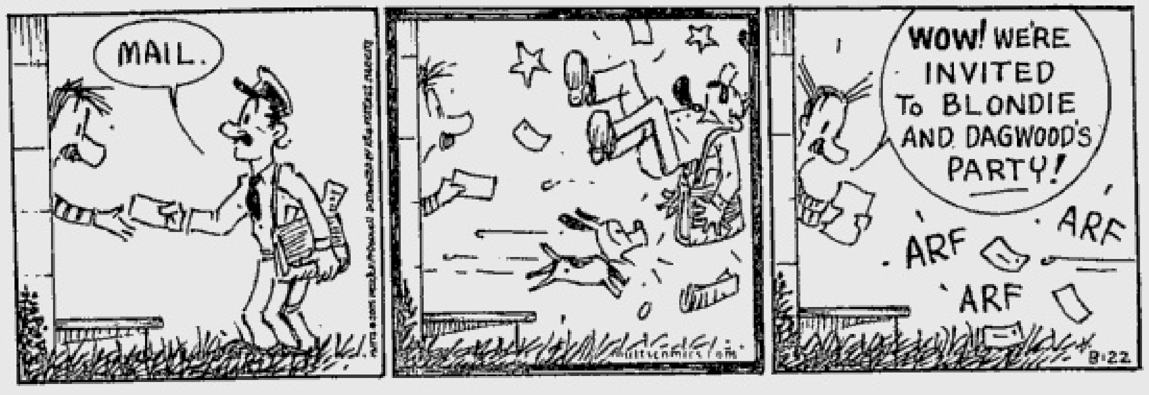
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


MAGTAGO KA SA MGA KAHON!!
EEEE!
EEEE!
ANO 'TO ??
PURO BOLA NG PING-PONG!
HOLY SUYOT,
FSSSSH!

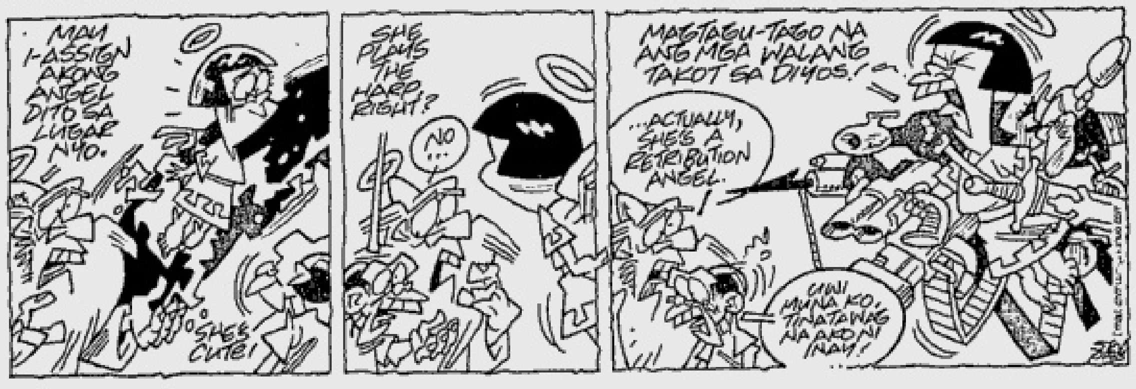
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


MAIL.
WOW! WE'RE INVITED To BLONDIE AND DAGWOOD'S PARTY!
ARF
ARF
ARF
8·22

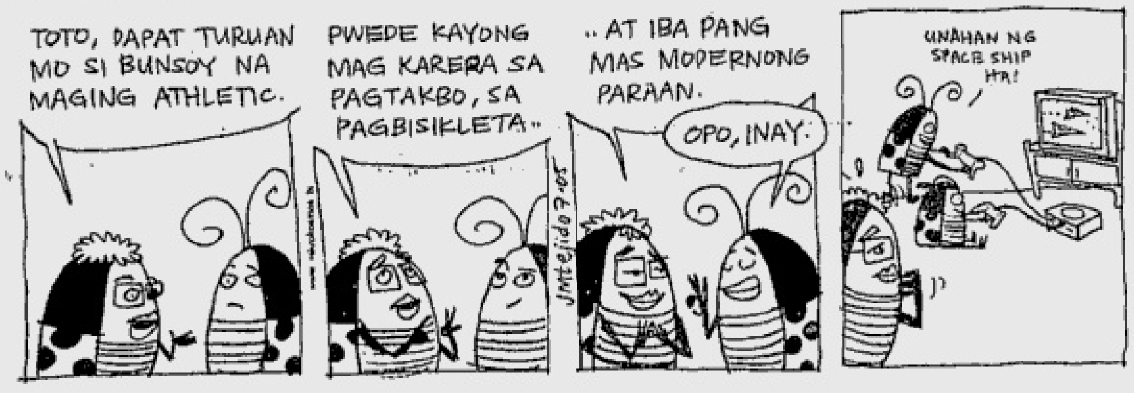
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


MAY I-ASSIGN AKONG ANGEL DITO SA LUGAR N'YO.
SHE'S CUTE!
SHE PLAYS THE HARP, RIGHT?
NO ...
MAGTAGU-TAGO NA ANG MGA WALANG TAKOT SA DIYOS!
...ACTUALLY, SHE'S A RETRIBUTION ANGEL.
UWI MUNA KO, TINATAWAG NA AKO NI INAY!

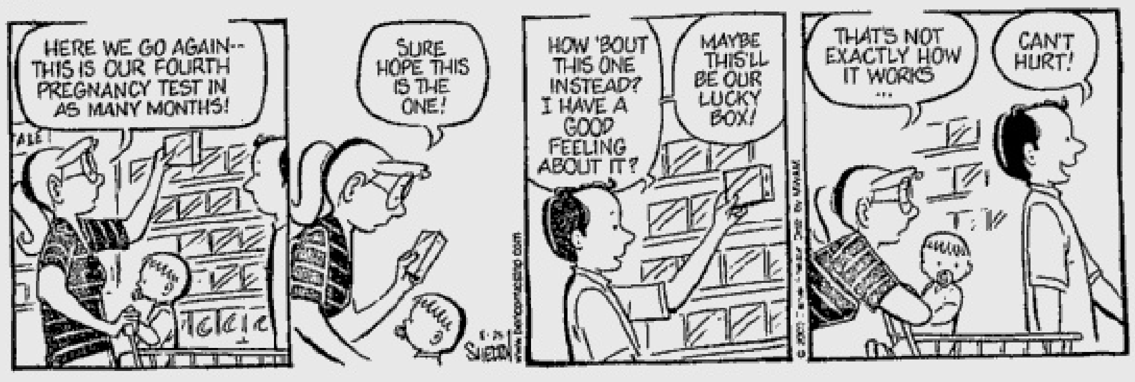
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


TOTO, DAPAT TURUAN MO SI BUNSOY NA MAGING ATHLETIC.
PWEDE KAYONG MAG KARERA SA PAGTAKBO, SA PAGBISIKLETA..
.. AT IBA PANG MAS MODERNONG PARAAN.
OPO, INAY.
UNAHAN NG SPACE SHIP HA!

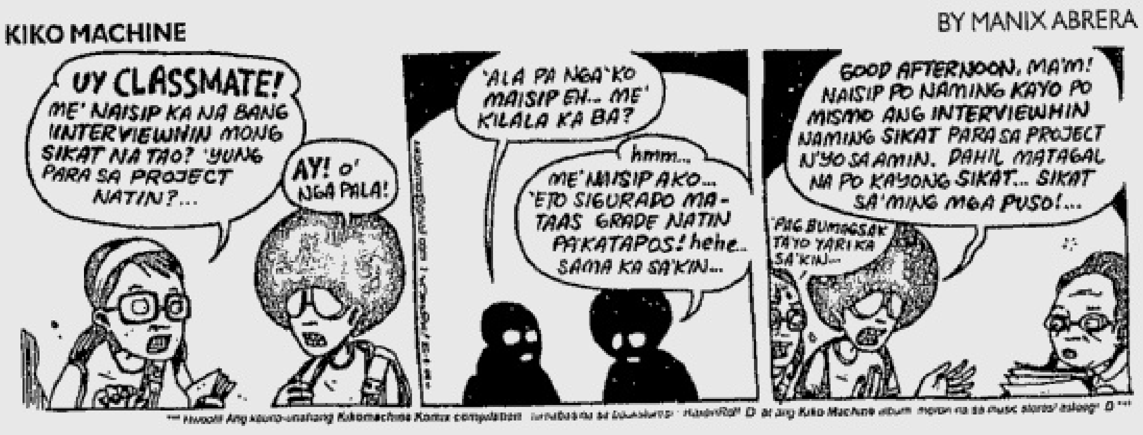
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


HERE WE GO AGAIN-- THIS IS OUR FOURTH PREGNANCY TEST IN AS MANY MONTHS!
SURE HOPE THIS IS THE ONE!
HOW 'BOUT THIS ONE INSTEAD? I HAVE A GOOD FEELING ABOUT IT?
MAYBE THIS'LL BE OUR LUCKY BOX!
THAT'S NOT EXACTLY HOW IT WORKS ...
CAN'T HURT!

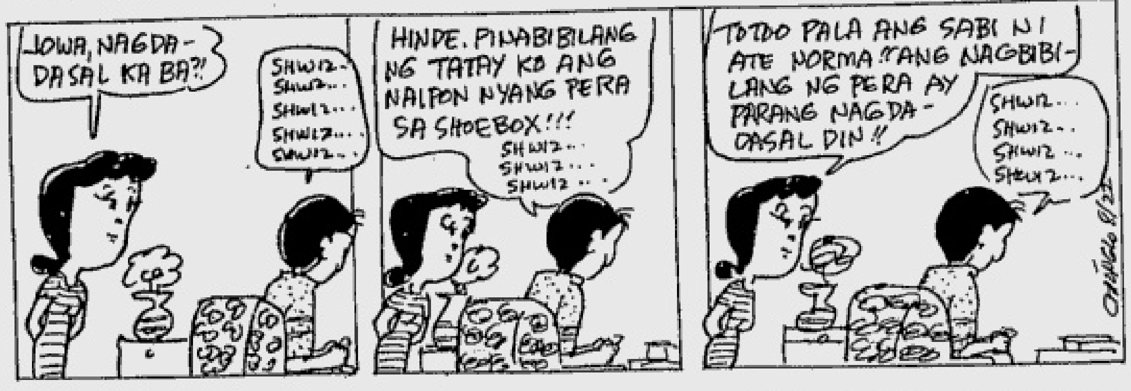
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


UY CLASSMATE! ME' NAISIP KA NA BANG INTERVIEWHIN MONG SIKAT NA TAO? 'YUNG PARA SA PROJECT NATIN?...
AY! O' NGA PALA!
'ALA PA NGA 'KO MAISIP EH.. ME' KILALA KA BA?
hmm.. ME' NAISIP AKO... 'ETO SIGURADO MATAAS GRADE NATIN PAKATAPOS! hehe.. SAMA KA SA'KIN...
GOOD AFTERNOON, MA'M! NAISIP PO NAMING KAYO PO MISMO ANG INTERVIEWHIN NAMING SIKAT PARA SA PROJECT N'YO SA AMIN. DAHIL MATAGAL NA PO KAYONG SIKAT... SIKAT SA'MING MGA PUSO!...
PAG BUMAGSAK TAYO YARI KA SA'KIN—

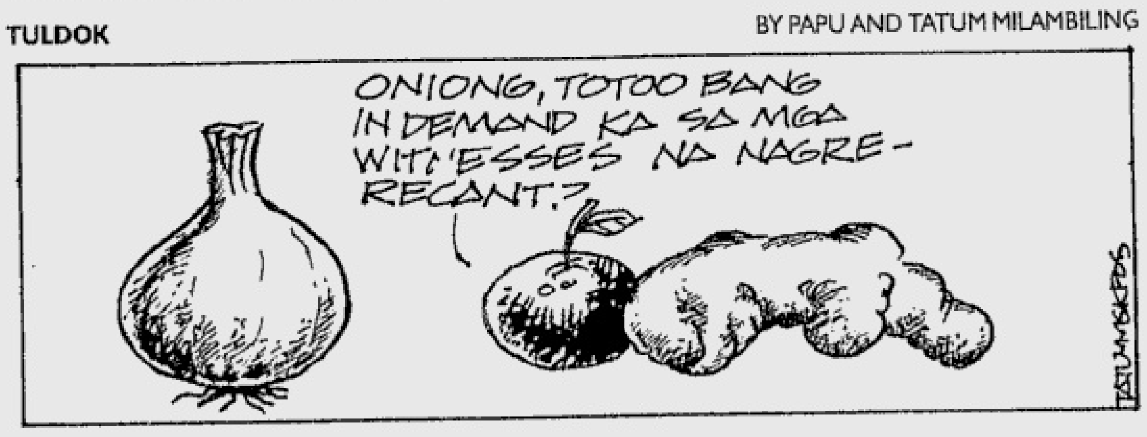
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


JOWA, NAGDA-DASAL KA BA?!
SHWIZ... SHWIZ... SHWIZ... SHWIZ... SHWIZ...
HINDE. PINABIBILANG NG TATAY KO ANG NAIPON NYANG PERA SA SHOEBOX!!!
SHWIZ... SHWIZ... SHWIZ...
TOTOO PALA ANG SABI NI ATE NORMA!! ANG NAGBIBILANG NG PERA AY PARANG NAGDA-DASAL DIN!!
SHWIZ... SHWIZ... SHWIZ... SHWIZ...
CHIONGLO 8/22

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


ONIONG, TOTOO BANG IN DEMAND KA SA MGA WITNESSES NA NAGRE-RECANT?
TATUM&PAPS

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GALLERIA 632-9116

1 BEWITCHED • THX
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00

2 THE GREAT RAID
11:00 1:45 4:30 7:15 10:00

3 MUST LOVE DOGS
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

4 WEDDING CRASHERS
12:15 2:45 5:15 7:45 10:00

5 CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
11:40 2:15 4:50 7:25 10:00

6 MGA PUSANG GALA
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00

7 THE ISLAND
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

8 D' ANOTHERS
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

9 SHAOLIN VS. STONE WARRIOR
1:20 3:30 5:40 7:50 10:00

10 SKY HIGH Sneak Preview

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 MUST LOVE DOGS 12:30 2:45 5:00 7:15 9:50

2 SHAOLIN VS. STONE WARRIOR
12:10 2:10 4:10 6:10 8:10 10:05

3 SKY HIGH Sneak Preview

4 D' ANOTHERS
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

5 THE GREAT RAID
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 9:50

6 MGA PUSANG GALA
12:20 2:40 5:00 7:20 9:50

7 BEWITCHED
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

METRO EAST 682-8193 • 682-8199

1 SKY HIGH Sneak Preview

2 THE GREAT RAID
12:30 3:20 6:10 9:00

3 D' ANOTHERS
12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00

4 MUST LOVE DOGS
12:20 2:30 4:40 6:50 9:00

5 STEALTH
1:05 3:35 6:15 9:00

6 BEWITCHED
12:40 2:45 4:50 6:55 9:00

7 CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
1:20 3:55 6:30 9:05

8 MGA PUSANG GALA
1:50 4:10 6:30 9:00

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2575

1 STEALTH
2 D' ANOTHERS
3 THE GREAT RAID
4 SA PAGITAN NG LANGIT

PIONEER 687-5378

1 THE GREAT RAID
2 MUST LOVE DOGS
3 SKY HIGH Sneak Preview
4 BEWITCHED

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2 ARAHAN
3 SA PAGITAN NG LANGIT
4 D' ANOTHERS

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1 CRASH
2 THE EYE INFINITY
3 IF ONLY
4 SKY HIGH Sneak Preview

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1 D' ANOTHERS
2 SHANGHAI LILY
3 MUST LOVE DOGS
4 SKY HIGH Sneak Preview

STARMILLS (045) 875-1927 (045) 961-5270

1 D' ANOTHERS
2 WEDDING CRASHERS
3 LAMAT
4 THE ISLAND
5 SKY HIGH Sneak Preview
6 CRASH

BACOLOD (034) 441-0453 (034) 441-0459

1 CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
2 IF ONLY
3 STEALTH
4 SHUT UP AND KISS ME
5 YEAR OF THE YAO
6 MONSTER-IN-LAW

ILOILO (033) 336-8070

1 CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
2 STEALTH
3 WEDDING CRASHERS
4 THE EYE INFINITY

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	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
G1 GLORIETTA 1	PUSANG GALA	MUST LOVE DOGS	SHAOLIN VS. STONE WARRIORS	D' ANOTHERS			
G4 GLORIETTA 4	CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY	THE GREAT RAID	THX SKELETON KEY 11:40, 1:50, 4:00, 6:10, 8:20, 10:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	ONE LAST DANCE	WEDDING CRASHERS	MUST LOVE DOGS	BEWITCHED
GB1 GREENBELT 1	BEWITCHED 1:05, 3:15, 5:25, 7:35, 9:45	MUST LOVE DOGS 1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:40					
GB3 GREENBELT 3	THX SKELETON KEY 12:40, 2:50, 5:00, 7:10, 9:20, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	THX MUST LOVE DOGS 12:20, 2:30, 4:40, 6:50, 9:00, 11:20 GUARANTEED SEATS	WEDDING CRASHERS 2:10, 4:30, 6:50, 9:10, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	THE GREAT RAID 1:45, 4:20, 6:55, 9:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	BEWITCHED 2:35, 4:45, 6:55, 9:05, 11:15 GUARANTEED SEATS		
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	THX MUST LOVE DOGS	SKELETON KEY	BEWITCHED	THE GREAT RAID	CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY		
ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU	BEWITCHED	IF ONLY	THE GREAT RAID	ARAHAN			

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④ The Great Raid
⑤ D' Anothers

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SPORTS

Champs repeat in Milo CL run

TARLAC CITY—Former regional champions Bowen Montecillo and Maria Elena Torcelino dominated the 21K Central Luzon qualifying run of the 29th Milo Marathon here yesterday.

Montecillo, who also won leg honors in Cebu City in 1999 and 2003, clocked 1 hour, 11 minutes and 29 seconds to beat Wilson Maningkil (1:13:42) of Iba, Zambales and local bet Joseph Rosete (1:16:11).

While the men's race was a breeze for Montecillo, eight-time Region III champion Torcelino had to buck a stiff challenge from the up-and-coming Ailyn Morillo.

Torcelino, a teacher at the Pandan National High School, timed 1:43:03 with Morillo finishing just three seconds behind. Placing third was Christine Venuza (1:48:32).

Montecillo, Maningkil and Rosete and the top three finishers in the women's race will represent Region III in the 42K National Finals slated on Oct. 9 in Metro Manila.

This annual foot race is held in partnership with Bayview Park Hotel, Adidas, Cebu Pacific, Smart Kid, Department of Tourism, Addict Mobile Prepaid and Powerbar.

The men's 5K race was topped by Abraham Barcarse Jr. (14:55), Christian Gilbuena (15:41) and Miles Embuedo (15:57), while the distaff side was dominated by Shella Ninobla (19:20), Vanessa Sugalan (20:12) and Rosemarie Radaza (20:40).

The Kiddies 3K winners were Wowie Maula and Carmela Sugalan in the 6-9 age group and Jaycee Param and Rea Dillosa (10-12 class).

Tarlac's Rey "The Old Warrior" Antoque, 49, last year's winner and a 10-time winer of the Central Luzon leg, decided to retire from competing in long distance races.

Mayor Aro Mendoza fired the gun that flagged off 10,730 runners in front of the Tarlac City Hall.

BATTLE OF COURTS

The Zone pulls off sweep of East leg

THE ZONE scored 3-0 victories over Cool Shots and Badminton Extreme yesterday to complete a four-match sweep and reassert its dominance in the East eliminations of the Battle of the Courts: National Inter-Club Badminton Cup Year 2.

The Zone encountered trouble only in the ladies' doubles where Gem Padilla and new recruit Lhit Pascual lost the opening set, 13-15, to the Badminton Extreme pair of Tata Goyena and Teng Dayan. Padilla and Pascual rallied to win the next two sets, 15-7, 15-3.

Alvin Ballesteros-Bubu Santos (men's doubles) and Lennie Dionisio-Mitch Begonia (mixed doubles) also won their matches for Cool Shots while Begonia teamed up with JD De Jesus and Santos partnered with Dionisio to deliver the wins against Badminton Extreme.

Powersmash beat Manila Polo Club, 2-1, in a duel for second place to earn the other slot for the grand finals of the country's biggest inter-club badminton competition presented by Smart: Simply Amazing, INQUIRER Badminton and Mizuno.

The event is also supported by Citibank On-Line and Unilever. Wilson is the official shuttlecock. The other supporters are Pinnacle Health Pointe & Pinnacle Spa, Hero, Viva and Powerade. Solar Sports, Wave 89.1 and Jam 88.3 are the official media partners.

Manila Polo, however, put the game under protest. It claimed that Powersmash player John Fernandez is a trainer. If the technical committee finds Fernandez ineligible, Powersmash will be disqualified.

Manila Polo is itself facing a protest filed by Badminton Extreme owner Jun Tupas, who alleged that Judy Lim had undergone national pool training.

BOTC technical committee head Teody Villaflor asked the protesting parties to substantiate their claims with documented proofs or affidavits by witnesses.

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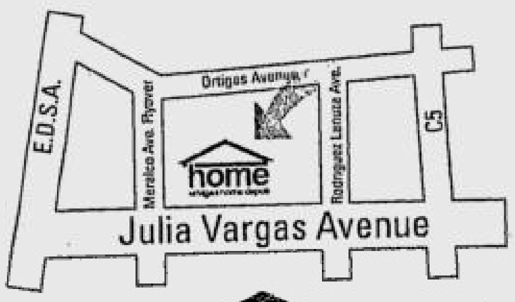

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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Emmie G. Velarde**

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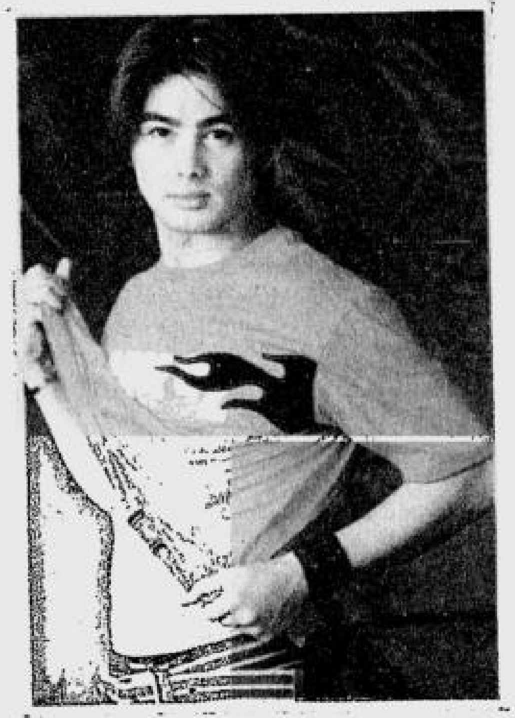
Third eye

Young actor Danilo Barrios 'sees' spirits



Text, styling and direction by Larry Leviste
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

DANILO Barrios, star of ABS-CBN's "Nginiiig: The Hidden Files " says he is sensitive to spirits but is not afraid of them. He feels cold all over and gets goose bumps when they shoot in haunted locations, he says.

"I know [those sprits] need prayers and I send them encouraging thoughts to move on to the next realm," the young actor explains. "That's usually why they are earthbound."

Danilo also starred in Chito Roño's hit movies, "Spirit Warriors I" and "Spirit Warriors 2."

He relates: "I lived alone in my last condo, but would wake up in the middle of the night, hearing doors opening and closing. It was a good spirit who was roaming the building. My cousin, who is more sensitive to them, says it was a white ghost, the spirit of a young man."

Danilo joined the very popular Street Boys, a group that Roño manages, in 1999. Danilo says he enjoyed the camaraderie with co-dancers Vhong Navarro and Boy Reyes, who also became TV and movie actors.

"My first and favorite movie was 'Spirit Warriors I,'" Danilo tells INQUIRER Entertainment. "I was very quiet and shy on the set. Maybe it was because I didn't join any acting workshop and came in cold. But I have since taken acting lessons, concentrating on motivation and internalization. I have acted with the 'greats,' like Helen Gamboa, Vilma Santos and Boyet de Leon, and observed them closely. They taught me to stay humble and natural."

CLOTHES BY BUM EQUIPMENT BY JOEL BERNARDINO
MAKE-UP AND GROOMING BY DIERIE ORTIZ

'Silk Avenue' invites Pinoys to Rome meet

THE EUROPEAN Union (EU) invites Filipino broadcasters, producers, filmmakers and animators to take part in Silk Avenue, a gathering of over 200 Southeast Asian and European audio-visual companies, set in Rome, Italy from Oct. 13 to 14.

Silk Avenue is a "major matchmaking event that will bring together 100 Southeast Asian audio-visual enterprises and 150 of their counterparts from Germany, Spain, Italy and the Czech Republic," according to Gerry Constantino of the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP).

Constantino said the meet would give Filipino companies a foothold in the EU, "the largest AV market in the world, worth the equivalent of P13 trillion and covering film, broadcast, video and multimedia industries."

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ROUNDUP

RP envoy is Korean

THREE years after his very first trip to the Philippines for a photo shoot, actor Kim Sung-Min has been appointed the country's official endorser in his native Korea.

Kim is known to local televiewers as Joshua in GMA 7's recently concluded Asianovela, "Irene."

KIM Sung-Min

The title "Honorary Philippine Tourism Envoy in Korea" will be officially conferred on him when he arrives in Manila this week, according to Tourism Secretary Joseph Ace Durano.

Explaining his department's decision, Durano said: "[Kim] is a seasoned traveler to the Philippines. With his stature in the Korean entertainment industry, we are confident that his involvement in our marketing campaign will enable us to entice more Korean tourists, particularly those from the upscale market, to visit the country."

The award-winning actor also stars in the Asian drama series titled "Single Again," which filmed two of its episodes in Cebu last May.

Favorites in Malaysia

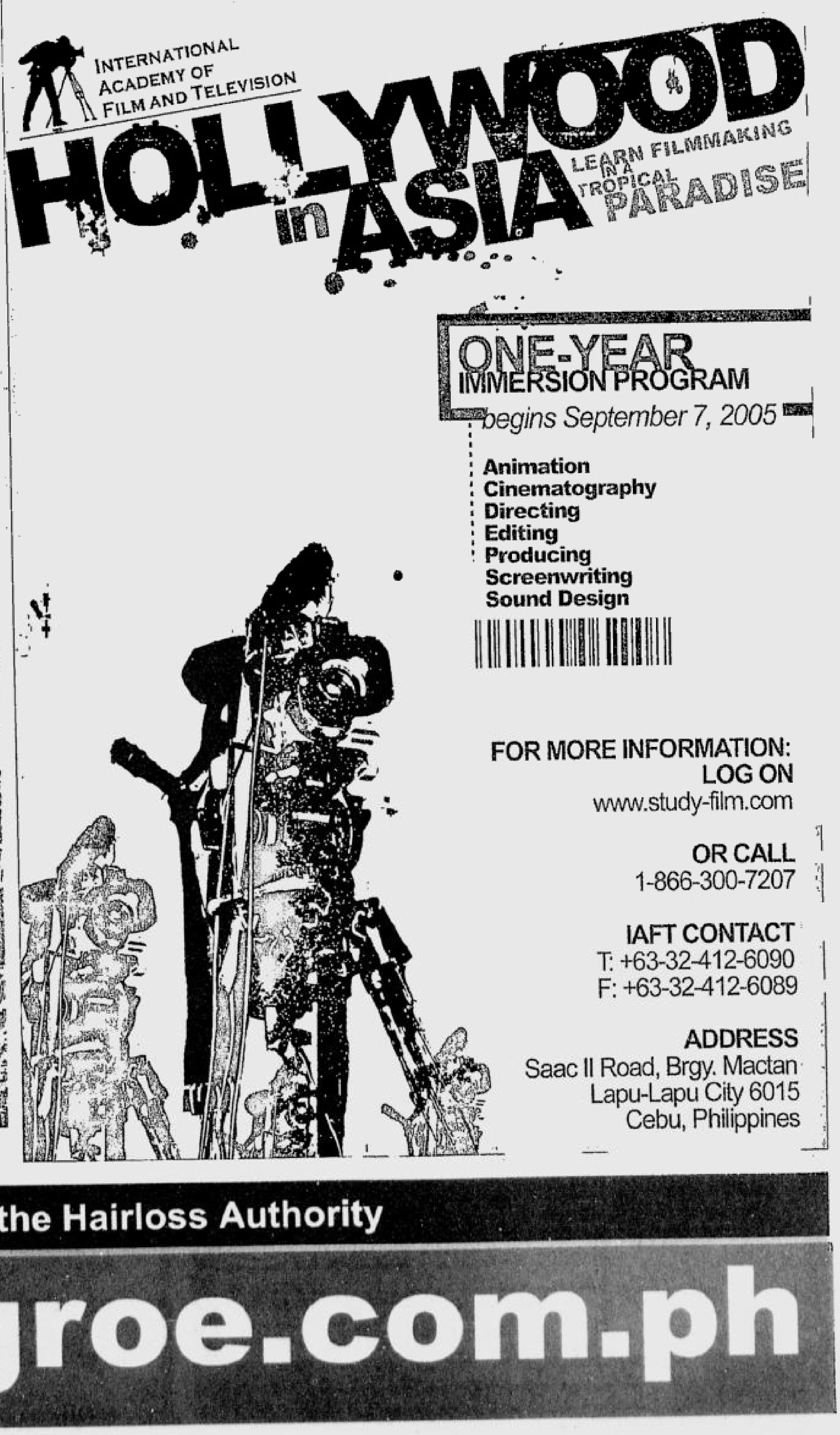
JERICHO Rosales and Kristine Hermosa were together again... for a charity event held recently in Sabah, Malaysia. The duo flew to Kota Kinabalu and reportedly filled up the Magellan Şutera Harbour's banquet hall to raise the equivalent of P840,000 for the Sabah Kidney Foundation. The stars were "very warmly" received by fans and benefactors of the event. Some 1,500 VIPs turned up for the fund raiser.

'SIS' turns 4

GMA 7's morning talk show, "Sis," is celebrating its fourth anniversary this week, Aug. 22 to 26. The program, hosted by sisters Janice and Gelli de Belen, and Carmina Villaroel, is presenting thematic episodes all related to the number 4.

Today, "Sis" airs "Walang Katapat na Apat." Tomorrow, it's "All Four Love," featuring the most admired love teams of the past four decades. Wednesday's episode is "Funtastic Four" and, on Thursday, "Sis Four-ever." The celebration winds up with "Sikat sa Apat" on Friday.

KRISTINE Hermosa and Jericho Rosales



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The master key works!

By Oliver M. Pulumbarit
Contributor

REVIEW

KATE Hudson

THERE aren't a lot of good suspense flicks lately, but "The Skeleton Key" is one such find. Let us say this master key works, as much for clever hint-dropping as for the story's setting, a grippingly exotic world.

Part of what makes the movie tick is Kate Hudson, who takes a respite from flashy heroine roles to play Caroline, a nurse who gets emotionally attached to her patients.

Caroline's new job requires her to take care of stroke victim Ben (John Hurt), and to live in an eerie old Louisiana mansion with him and his wife Violet (Gena Rowlands). The nurse is given access to dozens of rooms using a skeleton key which, unsurprisingly, leads her to a door that cannot be opened. We all guess: a chockfull of clichéd dark secrets. Still we're drawn to it.

"The Skeleton Key" gives a distinctly ominous picture of the locals' belief in spell-casting and the supernatural. Hudson capably essays the superstition-scoffing outsider, while young native lawyer Luke (Peter Sarsgaard) is the friendly character that helps her acclimate to a strange environment.

Commendable

At times, the pacing tries our patience, but the editing of several intense sequences is commendable. There's also a sense of dread that's well worked into the tale, even in parts when things look comfy on the surface. Clues are carefully scattered, which makes piecing the puzzle together more challenging. Like Caroline, we can't wait for some truths to be revealed, so we're rewarded when important questions are addressed stylishly.

(Watch it twice, and pay extra attention to a particular flashback that's darn spooky.)

Director Iain Softley ("The Wings of the Dove") and screenwriter Ehren Kruger ("Scream 3," "The Ring") integrate character and cultural elements smoothly into one memorable effort. A thick, foreboding atmosphere is created by the starkness of the sets contrasted with gorgeous outdoor photography.

DID YOU KNOW...

PASSENGERS of an ABS-CBN service car were startled by the sudden swerve of an SUV-type on the left turn from Edsa to Timog Avenue. As the offending vehicle veered right to enter the GMA 7 compound, the window on the driver's side rolled down, ever so slowly, to let out a thin arm... and the dirty finger! Next peered out a vaguely familiar face in a baseball cap, sporting the most menacing look. If we didn't know what a gentleman **Vic Sotto** was, we would have sworn the face belonged to his daughter, **Danica**.

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12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00 LMF

2 THE SKELETON KEY
MTRCB PG-13
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00 LMF

3 BEWITCHED
MTRCB. GP
12:20, 2:45, 5:10, 7:35, 10:00

4 SKY HIGH
MTRCB: GP
12:20, 2:45, 5:10, 7:35, 10:00

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2 (DOLBY)	SKELETON KEY PG13
3 (DOLBY)	BEWITCHED GP
4 (DOLBY)	SKY HIGH GP

PREMIERE

(DOLBY)	THE GREAT RAID PG13

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Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216

1	SKELETON KEY
2	THE GREAT RAID
3	MUST LOVE DOG
4	SKY HIGH (SNEAK PREVIEW)

Universal
(Manila) tel: 7334043 or 2470

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(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266150

1	RESERVED
2	RESERVED
3	SKY HIGH (SNEAK PREVIEW)
4 DOLBY DIGITAL EX)	THE GREAT RAID
5	SHALIN VS' STONE WARRIOR

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2	PUSANG GALA
3	RESERVED
4	RESERVED
5 (DOLBY)	SKY HIGH (SNEAK PREVIEW)
6	D' ANOTHERS

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1 (DDS)	THE GREAT RAID
2 (SDDS)	BEWITCHED
3 (DTS)	SHALIN VS' STONE WARRIOR
4 (GOLD DTS)	CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	SKELETON KEY
6 GOLD (SDDS)	SKY HIGH (SNEAK PREVIEW)
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	MUST LOVE DOG
8	D' ANOTHERS
9	WEDDING CRASHERS
10	ICE PRINCESS

Blue Wave MARIKINA
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927

1 (DOLBY)	THE GREAT RAID
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1	SKY HIGH (SNEAK PREVIEW)
2	THE GREAT RAID
3	SKELETON KEY

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)

1	CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
2	WEDDING CRASHER

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY)	SKY HIGH (SNEAK PREVIEW)
2	D' ANOTHERS
3 (DTS EX)	IF ONLY
4	THE EYE INFINITY

Cine Nepo
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121

1	SKY HIGH (SNEAK PREVIEW)
2	IF ONLY
3 (DOLBY)	THE EYE INFINITY
4 (DTS)	CRASH

Cine Nepo
(Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8489

1	STEALTH
2	EVIL DEAD
3 (DOLBY)	D' ANOTHERS
4 (DTS)	THE ISLAND

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	MONSTER IN LAW
2	STEALTH

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
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tel 687.6963 or 72

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2 (DOLBY)	MUST LOVE DOGS
3 (DOLBY)	SKY HIGH (SNEAK PREVIEW)
4 (DOLBY)	THE GREAT RAID

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Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
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1	D' ANOTHERS
2 (DTS)	SKY HIGH (SNEAK PREVIEW)
3	CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
4	IF ONLY

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	D' ANOTHERS
2 (DOLBY)	SKY HIGH (SNEAK PREVIEW)
3	CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
4	IF ONLY

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	D' ANOTHERS
2	EVIL DEAD
3 (DOLBY)	STEALTH

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729

1	D' ANOTHERS
2	YEAR OF THE YAO
3 (DOLBY)	STEALTH
4 (DTS)	CRASH

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320

1	CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
2	THE EYE INFINITY
3 (DOLBY)	D' ANOTHERS

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	GHOST HOUSE
2	PUKYUTAN
3	LAMAT
4 (DTS)	UNLEASHED

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1	CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
2	LAMAT
3 (DTS)	IF ONLY
4	SKY HIGH (SNEAK PREVIEW)
5	D' ANOTHERS

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	EXTREMIST
2	FINAL DESTINATION
3	LAMAT
4	D' ANOTHERS

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1	TAKAW TINGIN
2	THE GREAT RAID

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

Araneta Center Leisure Guide

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BEWITCHED 12:20 / 2:35 / 4:50 / 7:05 / 9:20	D' ANOTHERS 2:00 / 4:20 / 6:40 / 9:00
THE GREAT RAID 1:25 / 4:10 / 6:55 / 9:40	WEDDING CRASHERS 1:30 / 4:00 / 6:30 / 9:00
CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY 1:00 / 3:30 / 6:00 / 8:30	MGA PUSANG GALA 1:30 / 4:00 / 6:30 / 9:00

ALI MALL CINEMAS

❶ D' ANOTHERS 1:00 / 3:20 / 5:40 / 8:00	❹ SHAOLIN vs STONE WARRIORS 1:20 / 3:40 / 6:00 / 8:20
❷ SKY HIGH 11:45 / 1:55 / 4:05 / 6:15 / 8:25	❺ THE GREAT RAID 12:25 / 3:10 / 5:55 / 8:40
❸ MUST LOVE DOGS 12:35 / 3:05 / 5:35 / 8:05	DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

ARANETA COLISEUM EVENTS

MTV PILIPINAS 2005 AWARDS *August 25, Thursday 8 pm*	CUSA BASKETBALL LEAGUE *August 26, Friday* OPENING GAMES
Aug 27 UST vs Adu *Jrs 9:30am* ADMU vs UE *Jrs 11:30am* *Sunday* UST vs Adu *Srs 2pm* ADMU vs UE *Srs 4pm*	SYMPHONY OF THE HEART- GARY V *September 2, Friday 8pm*

CENTER EVENTS

SALE EVENTS	***Bizaare** (Upper Ground Floor) and **Girbaud** (Upper Ground Floor) of Ali Mall; **Van Heusen** (Ground Floor) and **Marks & Spencer** (Upper Ground Floor) at Gateway Mall*
EXHIBIT	***Ford Libis Display** ongoing until August 28 at the Upper Ground Floor Activity Area of Gateway Mall*
NEW STORES	***Florsheim** (Ground Floor), **Duck Duck** (Ground Floor) and **Naturalizer** (Level 2) now open at Gateway Mall*

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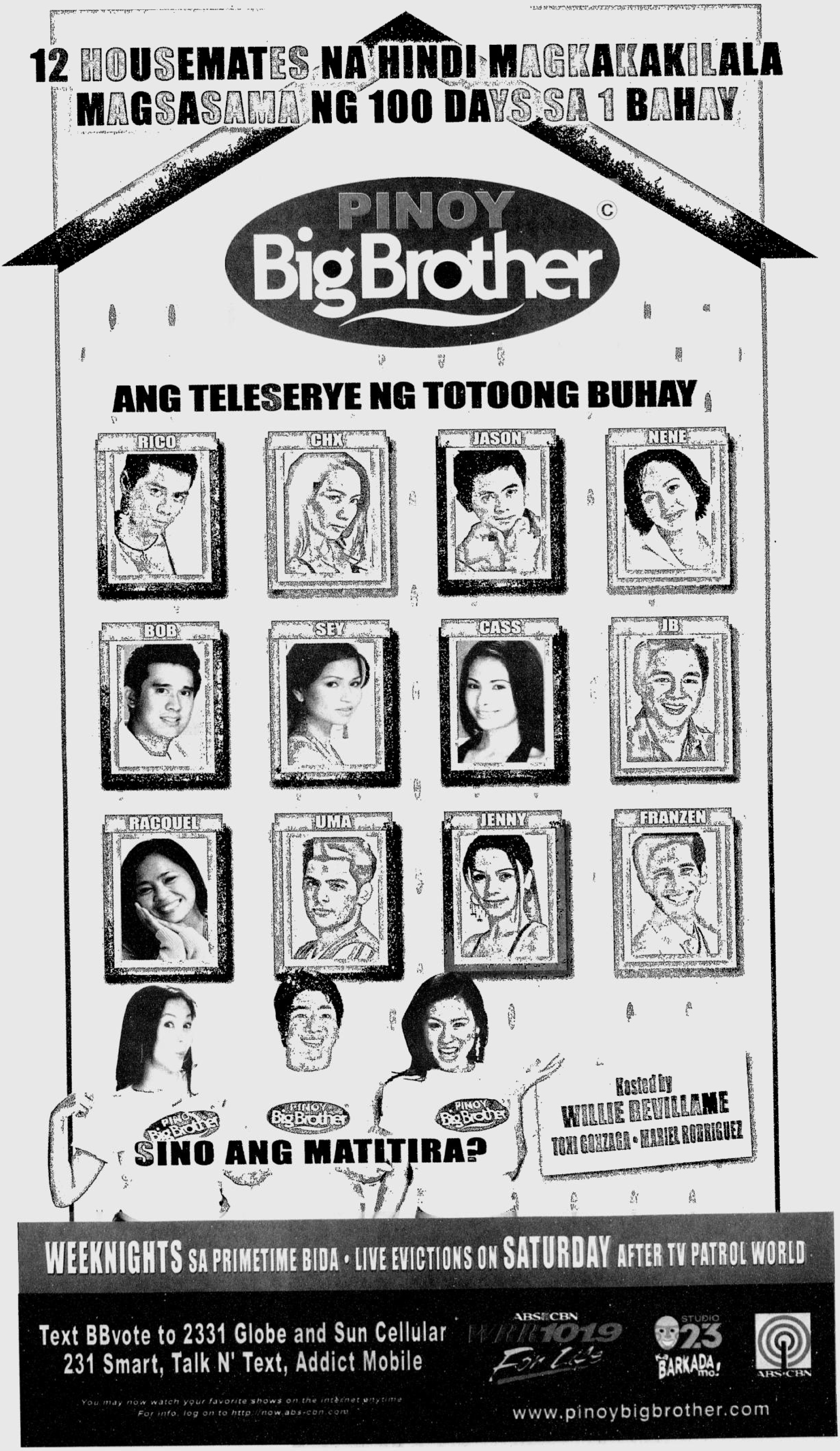

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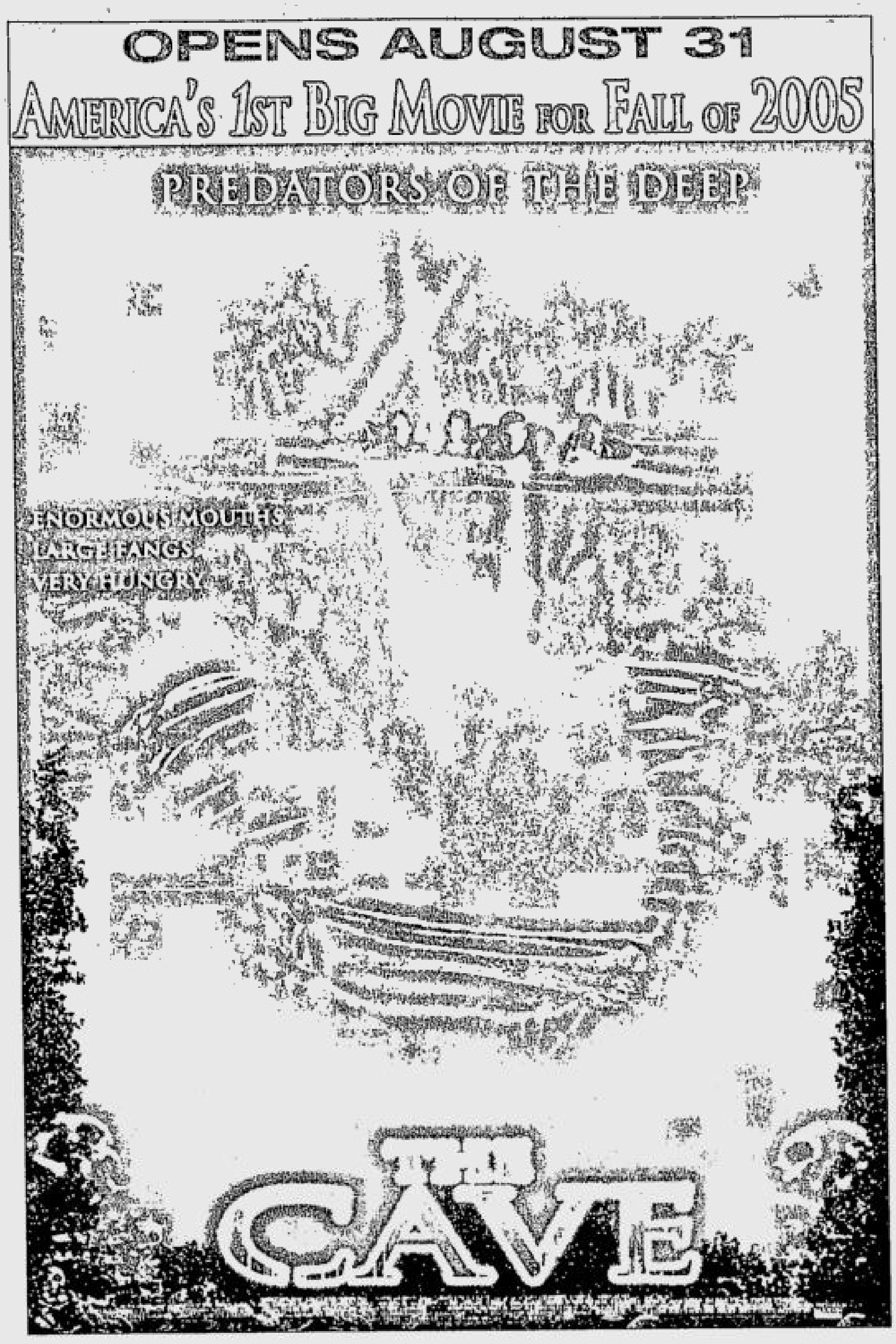


GETTING TO KNOW SHARKS Tonight at 9 on National Geographic Channel, "Beyond Fear," a documentary on the age-old enmity between man and sharks. The docu also presents new aspects of the Great White Shark's behavior, and discusses how humans and the legendary predator of the deep can "swim" in harmony. All it takes, the filmmakers insist, is understanding the sharks' "body language."

'Rock Star' finalists forced out of comfort zone

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

I KEEP tuning in to "Rock Star: INXS" on Star World week after week because the innovation it keeps coming up with make the talent search eventful.

Last week's Wednesday and Thursday telecasts were no exception: This time, the innovation was the INXS band's decision to assign specific songs for each of the eight remaining finalists to interpret, instead of leaving the selection up to them.

The shift in the process was an inspired move, because it forced the finalists out of their musical comfort zones, and tackle songs they'd never attempted to sing before.

Fil-Aussie bet **Migs Ayesa** got "special mention" in this regard when a juror commented that he was the least musically intrepid singer in the finals. Thus he was told to stop singing loud and instead wrap his voice around a quieter song of the band's choice, to enable his more subtly emotional side to emerge.

Last week's round in the competition was also enlivened by a new test that the finalists had to undergo: They were bunched up into different teams, and instructed to compose a new song in only one day.

Aside from testing the team's ability to be musically creative under pressure, the assignment also gave the judges a chance to see which finalists were good co-workers, an important requirement for being in a band.

All of the finalists did well in this regard—except for **JD**, who was more peevishly iconoclastic in his approach. He did come up with a good song, but he ruffled his teammates' feathers, and this wasn't lost on the jurors.

When the concert part of the round came, most of the finalists did justice to the songs assigned to them. But, in the estimation of viewer-voters, the top three were **Jordis, Marty** and **Mig.**

Significantly, "our" Mig was tapped to reprise his song, a sign that he had found special favor with the jurors. But Mig surprised everyone when he gallantly insisted that both Jordis and Marty do the song with him.—That won him even more brownie points with both judges and viewers.

At the other end, the three weakest performers were initially **Jessica, Deanna** and **Ty.** However, as the voting continued, their fans redoubled their efforts to "rescue" them, and Ty ended up being replaced by **Susie** in tilt's cellar position.

The three weakest finalists—all women this time—each sang an INXS song, and they were all good. The INXS bandmates sure had a tough time figuring out who had to leave the competition, but it had to be done, so they chose—Jessica.

She wasn't surprised, because this was the fourth time that she had ended up among the tilt's bottom three. It was fun while it lasted, but it really was time to go.

'Sky High' sneak previews

WALT Disney's new adventure comedy, "Sky High," is a cross between "X-Men" and "Harry Potter" set in an American high school in the skies. The fantasy-adventure production will have special sneak preview today and tomorrow in selected theaters. Stars include **Kurt Russell, Kelly Preston, Michael Angarano** and **Lynda Carter.**

'The Miracle Worker'

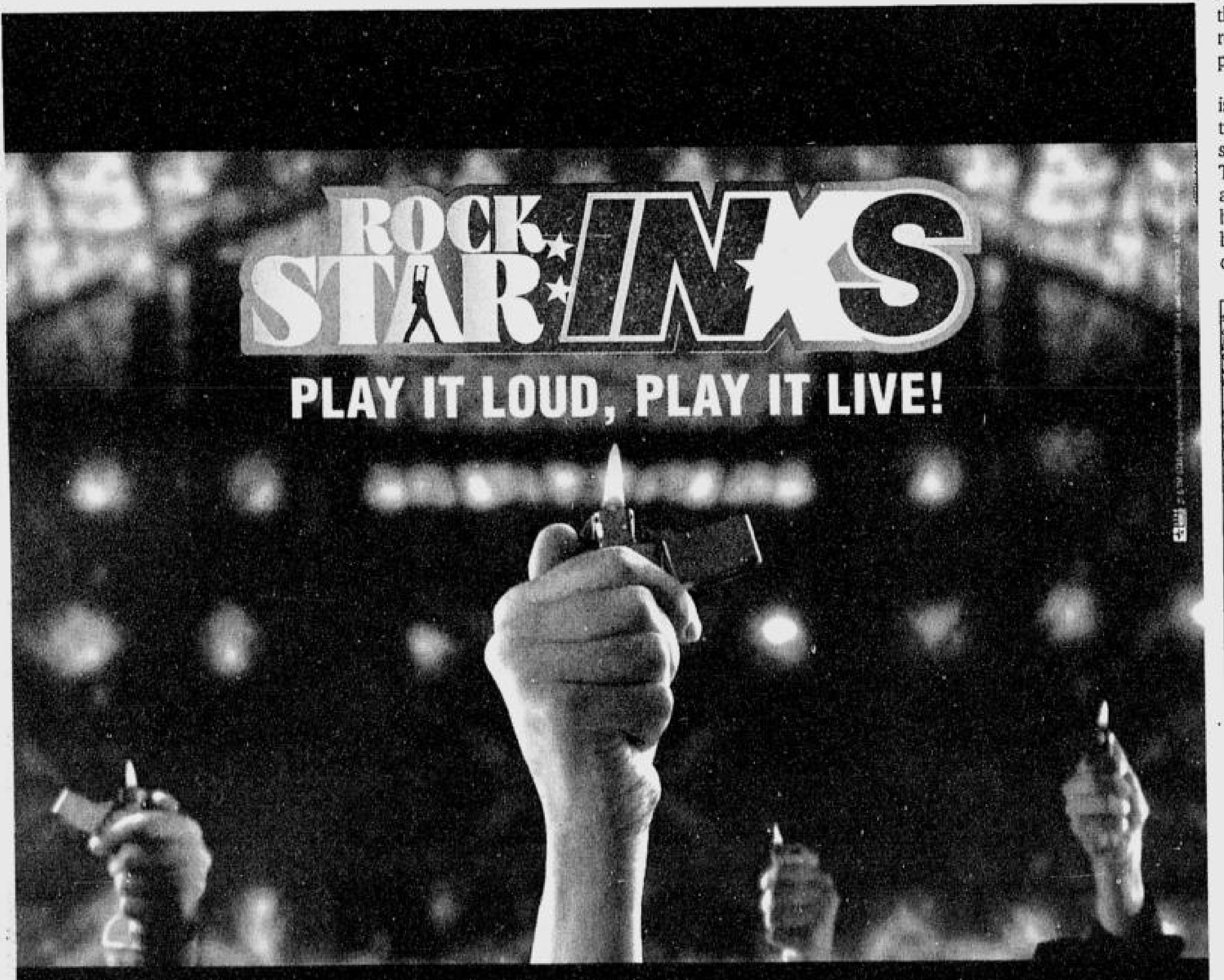
"THE MIRACLE Worker," **William Gibson**'s play on the life of **Helen Keller,** will be staged by the **Gilopez Kabayao** Foundation in Manila on Sept. 6 at the Far Eastern University Theater, and from Sept. 8 to 10 at St. Paul University, QC. Call 0927-9313893 or 525-4305.

Joan Paulette Liboon directs the all-Ilonggo cast led by **Farida Pineda-Kabayao** as **Anne Sullivan** and **Richelle Dollosa** and **Jessica Mogate** alternating as Helen.

'Van Helsing'

STEPHEN Sommers' ("The Mummy") "Van Helsing" will be shown for the first time on Asian television on HBO at 8 p.m. on Aug. 28. **Hugh Jackman** stars as Dr. Gabriel Van Helsing, a bounty hunter with a past he can't recall. He gets dispatched to the shadowy world of Transylvania and is ordered to terminate count Dracula.

He meets an ally, Anna Valerious (**Kate Beckinsale**), the last of a powerful family exterminated by Dracula. As they join forces to challenge the hated vampire, they encounter a gallery of monsters.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The Many Faces of Jennifer Love Hewitt in "The Truth About Love"

After the success of "IF ONLY". Jennifer Love Hewitt returns in the romantic sex comedy "TRUTH ABOUT LOVE".

Alice (*Jennifer Love Hewitt*) is happily married to Sam (*Jimi Mistry*). It's Valentine's Eve and as part of a drunken bet with her sister Felicity. Alice sends an anonymous Valentine's card to her husband to see if he will hide it. Unfortunately for Alice, her husband conceals the Valentine card far too well, which infuriates Alice.

With the help of her friend Archie (*Dougray Scott*), Alice starts off a silly prank that escalates to phone sex, a clandestine meeting and ultimately the revelation that her husband already has a mistress!

Alice has to decide whether to fight for her marriage or leave Sam. She decides to fight – but where will it all end?

How far would she go to test her man? And how far would she go to keep him?

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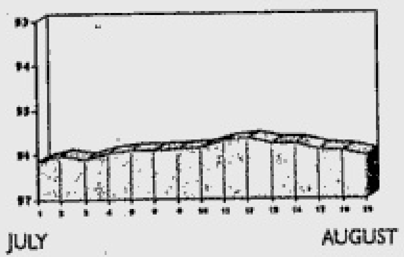


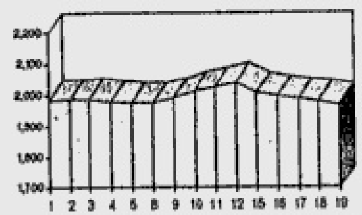
PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱ 56.045 = $ 1
As of 5 p.m., Aug. 19, 2005

¥ 110.82 = $ 1
As of 5 p.m., Aug. 19, 2005

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B14)

Lackluster trading seen

STOCK trading will remain lackluster as investors weigh the impact of surging crude prices on corporate profits.

The market was jittery last week, falling 72 points or 3.5 percent to 1,966.33 after oil

LACKLUSTER/ B4

Memories of rationing, shortage of '70s oil crunch

By Abigail L. Ho

(First of 2 parts)

SPECIAL REPORT

FOR those old enough to remember what happened in the '70s and early '80s apart from Martial Law, memories of fuel rationing may come to mind. No hoarding of fuel even if you had the money. Even the rich had to content themselves with a limited number of vehicles instead of having one for each member of the family. The country was, after all, in a crisis.

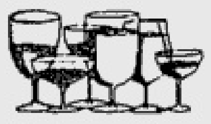
More than 20 years later, gas-guzzling vehicles roam the metropolis, often with only one or two passengers on board. Traffic is terrible on main thoroughfares, due mainly to the huge number of vehicles plying the roads. Fuel is aplenty and, despite the current high prices of gasoline and diesel, demand has not let up.

But things may very well change in the next few months, or even in the next few weeks. World oil prices have climbed to unprecedented highs over the past several months, setting new historic highs almost every day. And yet demand is still spiraling, particularly from China and the United States.

An oil-induced economic crisis may indeed be not very far behind.

SURGING/ B10

WHAT'S INSIDE



Mining other business /B3

US invest bank says RP economy 'on track' /B4

Customs cracks down on tax credit fraud /B8

WHAT DO WE PAY FOR IN A LITER OF GASOLINE?

	Regulated March 1998	Deregulated April 11-15, 2005	
	Industry	Industry	Importer
Dealer/ hauler take	6%	3%	3%
Company take	23%	16%	8%
Duty & taxes	38%	17%	17%
Crude/ product cost	38%	64%	72%
Pump price	P 11.62/ L	P31.18/L	

WHAT DO WE PAY FOR IN A LITER OF LPG?

	Regulated March 1998	Deregulated April 11-15, 2005	
	Industry	Industry	Importer
Oil company take	33%	12%	18%
Duty & taxes	2%	3%	3%
Crude/ product cost	65%	85%	79%
Pump price	P10.05/kg	P31.41/kg	

CRUDE BASED ON MARCH 2005 DUBAI PRODUCT
BASED ON APRIL 11-15, 2005 MOPS

Breaking down the cost of gasoline, diesel and LPG

By Daxim L. Lucas

IS THE deregulation of the oil industry to blame for the seemingly unceasing increases in the pump prices of gasoline and other petroleum products?

The country imports practically all of its oil requirements. According to the recently released findings of the Independent Review Committee (IRC), the Philippines' total oil production is good only for less than half of the nation's needs for half a day.

Thus, "any changes in international oil prices directly affect pump prices," says the IRC, which was set up earlier this year to review the positive and negative effects of the Oil Deregulation Law.

Passed in 1998, the Downstream Oil Industry Deregulation Act has been blamed for rising pump prices, which are threatening to cripple the local economy.

However, it is becoming clearer to consumers that high petroleum prices locally are being driven mainly by the international crude oil situation.

Price breakdown

As it is, crude oil—not petroleum firms—drives pump prices.

For every liter of unleaded gasoline bought at the pump, an average of 64 percent of what the motorist pays goes to paying for the cost of the raw material. This average rises to 72 percent for oil firms that import all of their finished petroleum products from abroad as opposed to bigger local

BREAKING/ B10

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Halal industry initiatives making headway in Mindanao

(*First of two parts*)

MINDANAWORLD

Joji Ilagan-Bian

IN THE past few years, so much has been said and heard about the prospects of the Halal food industry in the country. Halal bills were filed, resolutions were made, discussions were hosted here and there, and several articles on the industry made their way to national and regional papers, and the Internet. Just as we thought that this interest in Halal industry is starting to fade away, recent developments seem to show otherwise.

The first study ever undertaken on the viability of a Halal-oriented food industry was completed last year, this we learned from Jamil Hamza Olermo, Halal Resource Center (HRC) founder and former chair of the Muslim Business Forum.

"It is a truly valuable document for food industry players seeking opportunities in the emerging $80-billion a year Halal global food trade," said Olermo, who spearheaded the conduct of the study.

The study came out at a time when the government's Medium Term Development Plan (MTDP) for 2005-2010 made mention of Mindanao being groomed as the agri-fishery export area with the development of the Halal food industry as one of its priority programs.

These welcome developments are better appreciated as a direct result of private sector advocacy to develop a homegrown Halal industry that will have both socio-cultural and economic impact on the constituents of Mindanao, in particular, and the country, in general.

Olermo further added that the center had likewise made a survey of Halal products in the market a year earlier and made them available to Muslim communities for their awareness. "We have more than 200 Halal-certified Philippine products in the market but many Muslims were unaware of their availability or that they were certified as such," he explained.

According to Olermo, the inclusion of the Halal food industry in the MTDP is a major breakthrough after years of advocacy to make Mindanao the nucleus of a Halal production center.

"Our original proposition to the Export Development Council (EDC) in 2003 was to develop the Halal industry as part of the export strategies in the MTDP," Olermo recalls. However, as it came out, the MTDP authors thought of the industry to be better pursued under the agribusiness sector.

Apart from the socioeconomic profile of Mindanao, the 100-page study made by HRC contains strong arguments why Mindanao deserves to be designated as the production base for Halal products; Halal certification practices in the country and the corresponding fees; illustrations for the deeper understanding of Halal processes in relation to food safety and wholesome consumption of products; the views and concerns of food companies in developing a Halal-based food sector; a look into the domestic and international market; infrastructure and institutional support in place; the challenges facing the industry, and the proposed strategies that can be undertaken by both the government and the private sector.

Despite the changes in its stewardship in recent years, the Department of Agriculture has been taking the lead on the government side. It made good of its commitment to provide necessary support for Halal industry initiatives initially by constructing Halal slaughterhouses in strategic locations in Mindanao as it works on adding new facilities in other viable areas in the next few years.

The previous Halal Industry Development Board, organized to prepare the groundwork for the industry's development, was replaced by a specific committee called the Halal Food Industry Development Committee (HFIDC). The Mindanao Economic Development Council (Medco), business support organizations, and other attached agencies of the department help facilitate and coordinate activities for the purpose, one of which is the creation of Fatwa Commission in the regions also in cooperation with nongovernment organizations in the areas covered. The committee has, likewise, crafted a draft of a five-year development program with the corre-

MINDANAWORLD/B4

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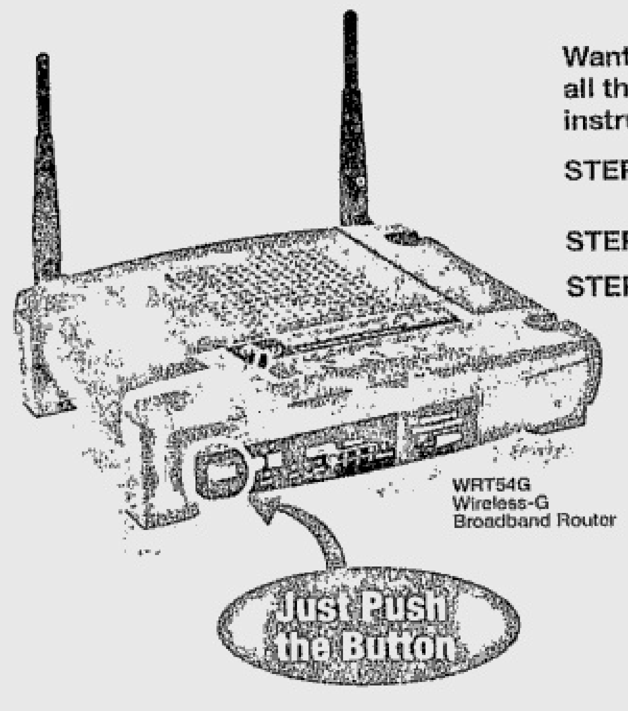

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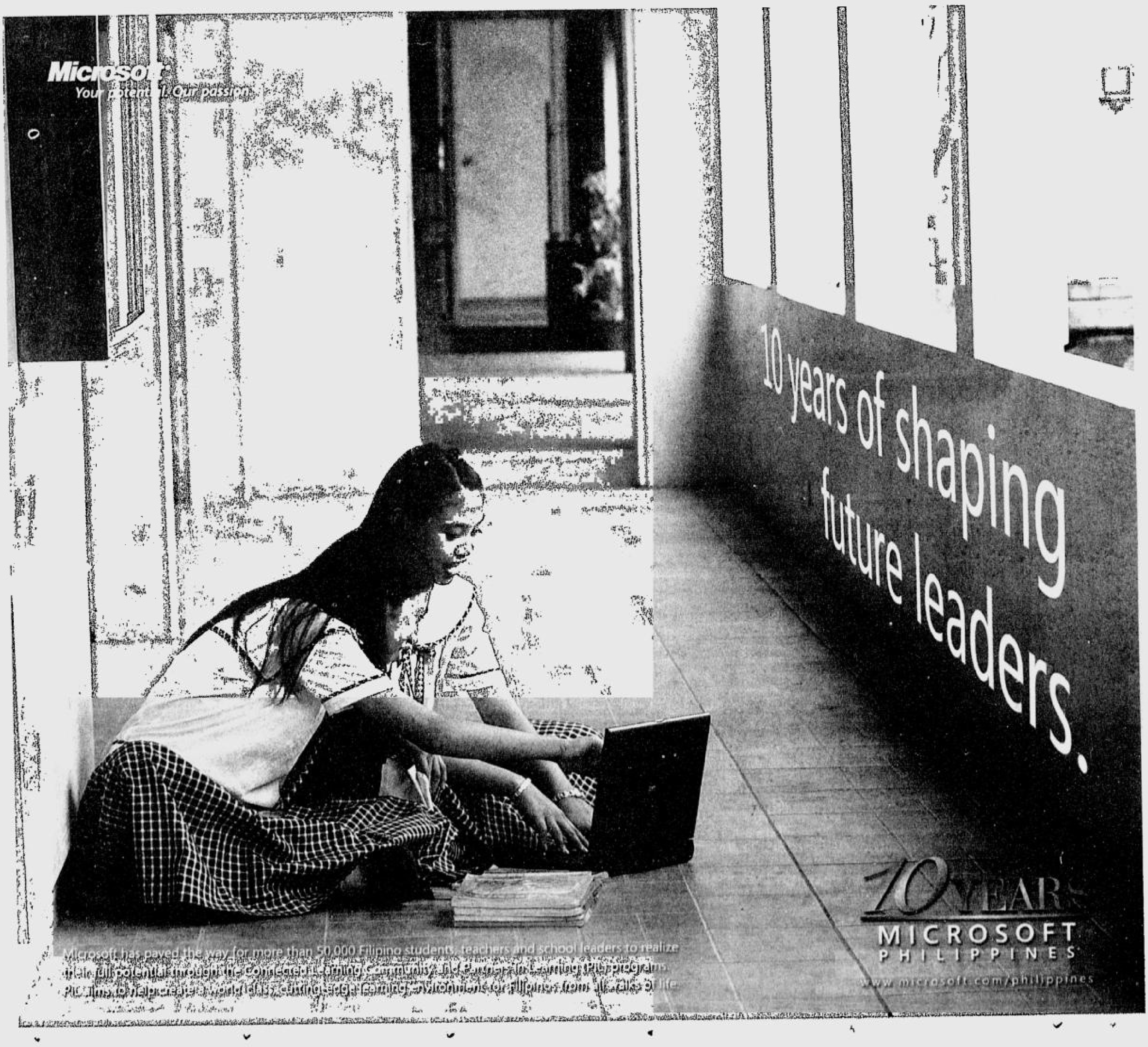
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Mining other business

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

DANILO Roleda may no longer be a presidential assistant for foreign investments, having enjoyed the title for only three months in 2004, but his business cards with the logo of the Office of the President are apparently still being passed around.

Even better, Roleda's intercession helped a Chinese vessel spirit out of the Harbor Centre Port Terminal a shipload of iron ore, notwithstanding a court order and a contingent of Manila and harbor policemen guarding the multimillion-peso stockpile.

If his name rings a bell, it is because the Mandarin-speaking Roleda was the same official that was photographed facilitating what was supposed to have been a hush-hush visit of Macau gaming tycoon Stanley Ho through Clark.

The contested iron ore was mined by Matatag Mining Corp., the first mainland Chinese company enticed to invest in the country's reviving mining industry.

Controlled by a Hong Kong-based company that is also part-owner of the Yue Hwa department store chain, Matatag did not want the shipment released until after a simmering stockholder and payment dispute had been resolved.

The long and the short of it is that Roleda, accompanied by Oscar de Venecia (the brother of the House Speaker), subsequently asked to meet with the controlling Matatag shareholders in a Mandarin Hotel function room the other Friday.

What was proposed during that meeting was, to be diplomatic about it, quite a revelation.

Victoria, meet Catilina

TOP corporate lawyer and newly minted billionaire Victoria delos Reyes was a no-show in Friday's probate hearing for the will of her aunt, Pacita Ongsiako delos Reyes-Phillips, despite the lawyer having instituted the petition and being named heir and executrix of the fabulous fortune.

Instead, her lawyers from Accralaw spent the entire session questioning the appointment of Vicente Chuidian, the counsel of the widowed US-based husband now claiming his conjugal half of the multibillion-peso estate.

Exasperated by the delaying tactics of his pañeros, the Ateneo-educated Chuidian could not help but blurt out the opening lines of Cicero's First Oration:

"Que asque tandem abatere, Catilina, patientia nostra? quam diu etiam furor iste tuus nos eladet? quiem ad finem sese effrenata iactabit audacia?" ("When, O Catilina, do you mean to cease abusing our patience? How long is that madness of yours still to mock us? When is there to be an end of that unbridled audacity of yours, swaggering about as it does now?")

Hearing the peroration, even Makati RTC Judge Ma. Cristina Cornejo broke out into a wide grin, and forgot her being ticked off by Chuidian with his earlier suggestion that the judge, an admitted friend of the executrix, had been hasty in approving the will disinheriting the husband.

Chuidian even alleged that Delos Reyes flew to the United States and withdrew about $400,000 in a bank account that she co-owned with her aunt right after the billionaire former Miss Philippines passed away.

In addition, the executrix has allegedly disposed more three-dozen lots at the Manila Memorial Park that her aunt owned.

Delos Reyes claimed that her aunt left only about a P100-million estate; Chuidian, on the other hand, said his original estimate of P2-3 billion estate was "even conservative."

The hearing continues Sept. 16, with Chuidian still insisting that Delos Reyes appear on the witness stand.

Money-go-round

- JG Summit's international capital and financial services division, managed by former Bangko Sentral Governor Gabriel Singson, turned in a whopping 743-percent increase in net income contribution for the first half of the year.
- NEWLY recycled single ABS-CBN host Ces Drilon has turned her off-hours passion into the restaurant business, opening the fashionable and reasonably priced My Spoon right outside the Quezon City studio-complex, in partnership with ad executive Monique Ignacio.

The two budding restaurateurs, incidentally, started out as gofers for Ciudad Fernandina in Greenhills right out of college.

Heard through the grapevine

THE RAMON Tambunting inheritance row is getting curiouser, if not messier.

In reaction to a Friday item here, a Tambunting relative claimed that Ramon's marriage with Mercedes Teehankee Rivera had been annulled, long before the billionaire passed away.

The "wife" is now claiming the conjugal half of the estate, the bulk of which is now under the control of Ramon's eldest (not youngest, as reported Friday) brother, Jose, and his son, Jose Jr.

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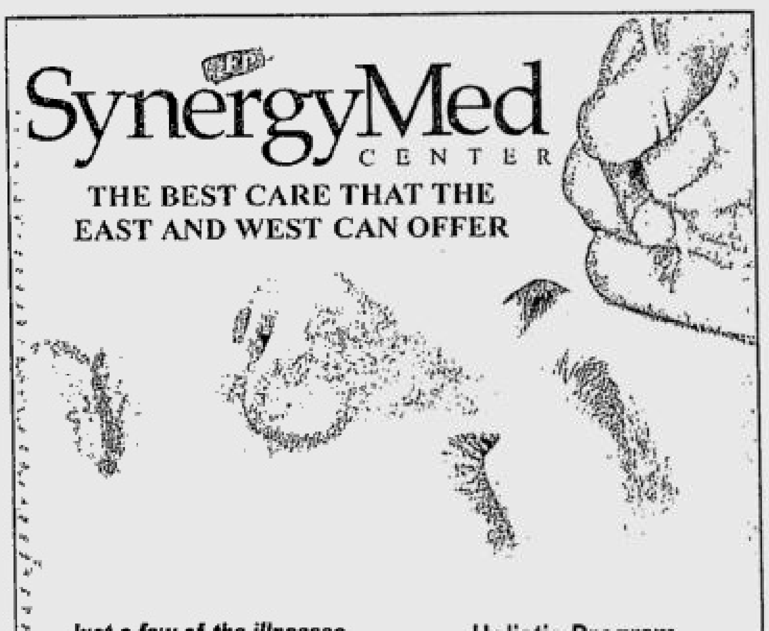

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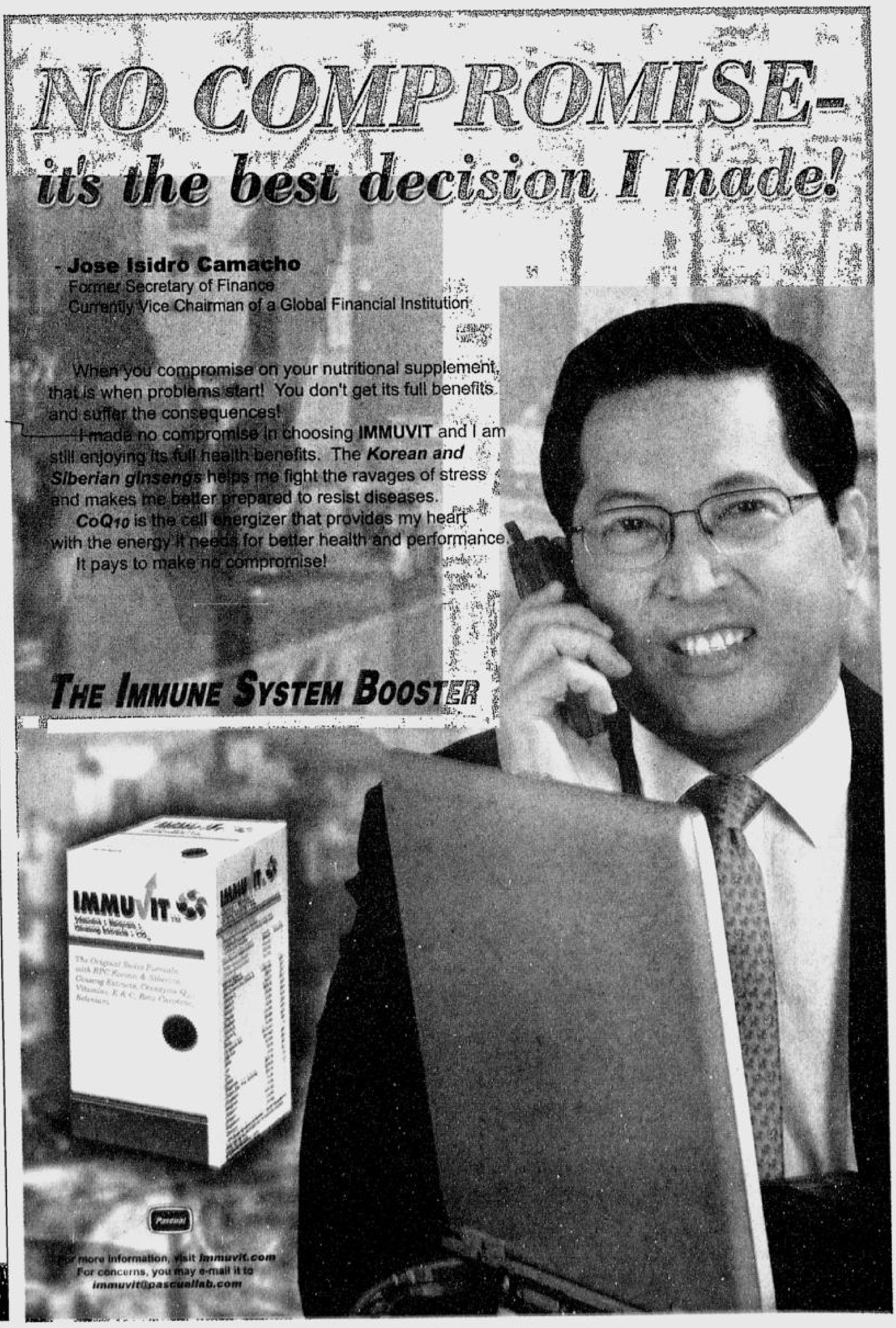

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US invest bank says RP economy 'on track'

Financial markets pay less attention to politics

By Michelle V. Remo

THE PHILIPPINE economy is still "moving in the right direction," with the government's improving fiscal standing veering the attention of investors away from the lingering political noise.

This was the assessment by Bear, Stearns & Co. Inc., which noted that yields on the government's local and foreign bonds have fallen in recent weeks, indicating confidence among investors.

"The political noise may not entirely disappear for some time to come. However, its amplitude has clearly fallen, and all of the financial markets seem to be paying less attention to it," the US-based investment bank said in its latest paper on the Philippine economy.

The bank highlighted the recovery of the stock market: From a low of 1,800 points in mid-July, the Philippine Composite Index had strengthened to as high as 2,010 points early this month, it noted.

It made a forecast that the country's foreign exchange reserves would remain at its latest level of $17.5 billion, an all-time high.

Bear, Stearns has expressed confidence in the government's ability to reduce its budget deficit to a level better than the official target. It projected that the deficit would fall to between P150 billion and P160 billion this year, compared with the programmed P180 billion.

Earlier, the Department of Finance reported that the government's budget deficit for the first seven months of the year stood at only P82.57 billion, P33.63 billion lower than the ceiling of P116.2 billion set for the period.

The DOF attributed the first-half fiscal performance to administrative measures for raising revenues, such as increase in fees and charges and higher dividends collected from state-owned companies.

Bear, Stearns said its positive assessment of the Philippines had partly to do with dwindling concern on political instability, given that the political opposition's efforts to impeach the President were not gaining enough momentum.

"'People Power' has lost its appeal, and the anti-President Arroyo demonstrations organized by opposition groups in recent months have lacked participation by the large, middle-class contingents that drove the two previous People Power exercises," the bank said.

The bank, however, said one pressure that can challenge the Philippines' way to economic recovery was the continued acceleration of inflation. It said inflation, which has risen slightly above seven percent, could go up to eight percent in the next few months especially when the Supreme Court lifts the suspension of the expanded value-added tax law.

The government's original inflation forecast for 2005 made earlier in the year was that it would only hover between five and six percent.

High prices usually reduce consumption, which accounts for about 60 percent of the Philippines' sources of economic growth. The government has set an economic growth target, as measured by the gross domestic product (GDP), of 5.3 percent this year.

Cost of prolonged impeachment

No Free Lunch

Cielito F. Habito

CAN the country survive a protracted impeachment process? I was requested to address this question in a presentation at a public forum yesterday. We've been through a lot of crises and upheavals before, and we have always survived. We often hear it said that Filipinos are a resilient people. We can smile and laugh through our problems and even come up with creative jokes about them—and then text them around to one and all! So yes, we will survive. The real question is: can we afford a protracted impeachment process? What will be its cost on the economy, particularly on the welfare of our people?

Before we can answer this, we must first ask what economic pressures are coming our way whether or not the President is impeached, or whether the process takes weeks, months or years. I will highlight three trends here: rising prices due to continuing oil price hikes, a likely rise in interest rates, and increasing economic hardship that has started taking its toll even on the middle class.

Oil prices and inflation

Rising oil price is on everybody's mind, as it pushes up the prices of basic commodities in turn. With the price of crude oil reaching record highs, most analysts agree that high oil prices are here to stay. I can cite at least five reasons why.

First, the rapidly growing economies of China and India, two of the largest countries in the world, will continue pushing up world oil demand. With rising purchasing power leading to more energy-using lifestyles in these giant economies, energy consumption will grow much faster than growth in the economy itself. Second, the United States has also added further to oil demand pressures as it builds up its Strategic Petroleum Reserve to twice the original target level. Third, continued political turmoil in the Middle East severely limits the region's ability to raise oil production to meet the rise in demand. Fourth, serious refinery imbalances have resulted from years of under-investment provoked by low oil prices. For example, it is cited that no new refineries had been built in the US since 1976. And fifth, experts project oil supplies to taper off, with no new major oil fields having been discovered in the last 35 years. With supply growth projected to lag well behind the rapid growth in oil demand, an expert's prediction of up to $182 a barrel may not be that farfetched.

Creeping interest rates

Another threat to the economic outlook is the prospect of rising interest rates. This will have the effect of dampening investment and consumption from both the private sector and the government, thereby slowing overall economic growth and job creation. I can again cite five reasons why it is reasonable to expect interest rates to move up.

First, the government must continue to borrow heavily in the face of a growing debt service burden, putting persistent pressure on domestic credit markets. Second, the improving US economy is widely expected to prompt the Federal Reserve Bank to hike its interest rates, putting similar upward pressure on ours. Third, the downgrading of the country's credit outlook by all the major rating agencies raises our cost of borrowing from the international capital markets. Fourth, continuing volatility of the peso could lead the BSP to raise policy interest rates to stem depreciation trends. And fifth, the continuing oil price hikes will put downward pressure on the value of the peso, further reinforcing the upward pressure on domestic interest rates.

Signs of hardship

There are clear indications that increased economic hardship is no longer confined to the poor, but has crept up to the middle class. One is the dramatic decline in enrollment reported by many private schools, whose students have apparently been forced to shift to the public school system given rising tuition costs. A particularly alarming trend with serious implications for the medium to long term is the dramatic drop in enrollment reported by medical schools. Apart from inability to cope with the high cost of medical education, nursing has been attracting a rapidly growing number of college enrollees. The recent news that 6,000 medical doctors are now enrolled in nursing courses gives even greater reason to worry. Clearly, all these nursing students are eyeing to go abroad, where the demand for nurses is growing by leaps and bounds.

There is much anecdotal evidence of growing outward migration by middle-class Filipinos, calling to mind the same migration surge that accompanied the political and economic crisis provoked by the Aquino assassination exactly 22 years ago yesterday. Déjà vu: now, once again, both political and economic crises are upon us, and brain drain is again a big threat to our future.

Prolonged impeachment?

Faced with such disturbing trends, can we then afford a protracted impeachment process? Can we afford a lingering uncertainty that will further exacerbate the slowdown in investments and job creation that an expected rise in interest rates will provoke? Can we afford a prolonged political limbo that would worsen the already unsettled outlook on prices and the exchange rate, and speed up the growing brain drain? Can we afford continuing with leadership whose decisions are compromised by concern for political survival; who is incapable of fostering teamwork in the government, who cannot motivate government workers to give their best and citizens to pay their taxes faithfully, and who cannot possibly inspire unity in our society?

Someone pass me the next text joke, please.

Comments welcome at chabito@ateneo.edu

Mindanaworld

From page B2

sponding proposed budget over the period. The program calls for, among others, the improvement of laboratory facilities and services to serve the industry in the making.

(Joji Ilagan Bian is an advocate for Mindanao; vice chair of the Mindanao Commission Of Women and National Corn Board; chair of the Mindanao TVET; Mindanao representative to the Export Development Council, and former chair of the Mindanao Business Council. Email comments to jojibian2@gmail.com)

Lackluster trading seen

From page B1

prices hit new highs. "The market will remain quiet, waiting for fresh leads," said Alfred Dy, head of research at CLSA Philippines.

AB Capital Securities noted in an online weekly report that world crude prices were volatile last week, sending fears of a slower economic growth due to the dampening effect of high power and gasoline prices.

Crude oil for September delivery climbed as high as $67.10 intraday on the New York Mercantile Exchange before closing at a record $66.86 a barrel, or 47 percent higher than a year ago.

This creates a drain on liquidity and economic activity is likely to worsen, hurting investors' sentiment.

Higher fuel costs could crimp corporate profits in the second half of the year.

"Economists had trimmed their outlook for the second half while we are also looking at the same for corporate profits. Investors also fretted over the continuing soap opera in the local political arena," AB Capital Securities said.

Elizabeth L. Sanchez

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Manila Polo Club	2.1M	
Manila Southwoods "A"	-	350K
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Orchard Golf Club "A"	-	190K
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DBP fund available for ethanol ventures

By Abigail L. Ho

DEVELOPMENT Bank of the Philippines is considering funding ethanol ventures through its P50-billion loan facility for energy projects.

DBP president Reynaldo David said that while the bank was still prioritizing hydropower and geothermal projects for funding, it was also keen on providing financial assistance for ethanol development.

No ceiling had been set for the loanable amount, he said, as the DBP wanted to extend as much help as it could to prospective ethanol developers.

At least three firms had already expressed interest in tapping the DBP loan facility, he said.

Ethanol, or ethyl alcohol, is produced when crops such as sugar cane, cassava, corn and other agricultural feedstock are fermented and distilled.

Aside from being a gasoline blend, ethanol can also be used as a component of reformulated gasoline or as primary fuel with gasoline as a blend. Under the country's energy independence package, ethanol will be used as a gasoline blend.

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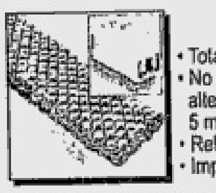

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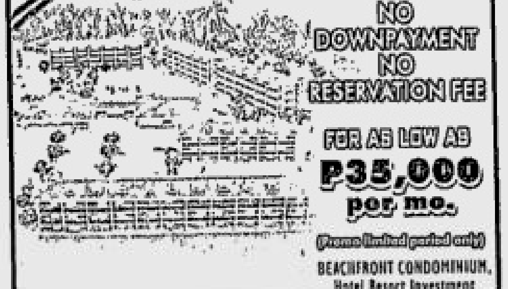

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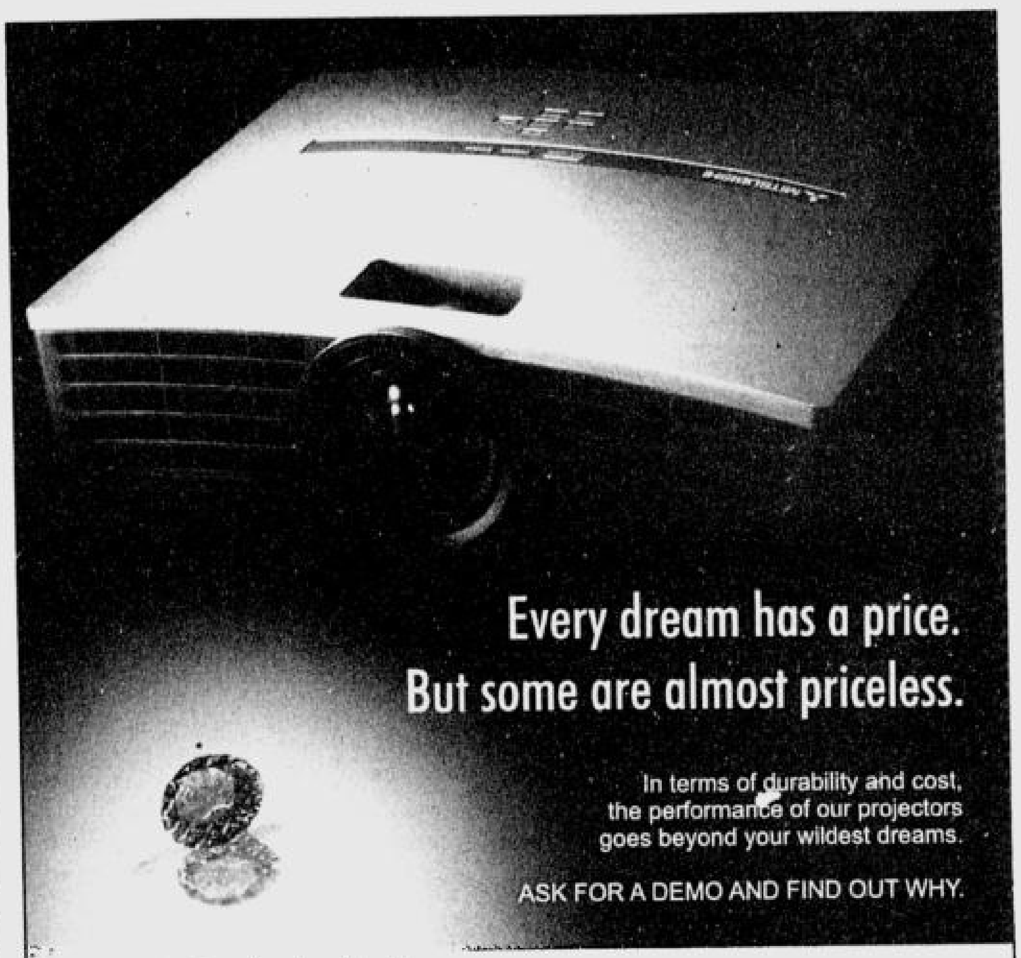

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Filipino wins Microsoft global award

FORMER journalist Sam Jacoba is the only Filipino from among 16 in the Asia-Pacific region and 220 worldwide to be recognized for the Microsoft COE Awards.

A FILIPINO'S initiative to improve the state of public school education in the Philippines won for him a slot in the Circle of Excellence Awards of the world's biggest software company.

Sam Jacoba is the only Filipino employee of Microsoft Corp. from among 16 in the Asia-Pacific region and 220 worldwide to be recognized for the Microsoft COE Awards 2005. He was recognized by Microsoft for his groundbreaking work in Partners in Learning (PiL), a global initiative by the software giant to invest $250 million in five years to K12 education of countries worldwide. The program is already on its third year of implementation starting this July, marking a new fiscal year for Microsoft. Currently, 99 countries have ongoing PiL initiatives.

Steve Ballmer, Microsoft CEO and president, describes the COE Awards as Microsoft's highest award to its employees worldwide.

"It recognizes contributions to Microsoft's success in achieving key objectives such as enhancing the Customer and Partner Experience, advancing competitive initiatives and improving financial results. The award represents Microsoft's ongoing commitment to recognizing our finest contributors and top performers," Ballmer stated in a letter sent to all COE 2005 winners during Microsoft's Annual Global Summit in Atlanta.

Jacoba, a journalist before he joined Microsoft Philippines in 1997, said that the success of PiL hinges on partnerships, teamwork and service.

Some of the key partners of PiL include the Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP), learn.ph, Philippine Normal University (PNU), Cebu Normal University (CNU) and the Coalition for Better Education (CBE). Hundreds of universities and colleges also support the program nationwide for teacher training.

"This for me is a team award because PiL is essentially about partnerships. Without the guidance of the advisory council and our allies on the ground, we wouldn't have been able to achieve this," Jacoba said. "It validates that we are on the right track as far as PiL's implementation in the Philippines is concerned."

This includes a pioneering effort to provide an online Masteral Program on Instructional Design for qualified teachers of the Department of Education (DepED). Dr. Ester Velasquez, CNU president, said that PiL was able to uniquely address the fundamental needs of public school teachers to integrate technology in teaching.

"The beauty of this masteral program is that it is action-research based, which means that the teachers do not have to stop teaching to gain a masteral degree," Dr. Velasquez said. Dr. Velasquez is a member of the PiL Advisory Council. Currently, there are 45 PiL scholars making up the first batch of this online masteral program.

PiL in the Philippines was able to transcend boundaries. Dr. Eddie Alih, Chancellor of Mindanao State University and also a member of the PiL Advisory Council said that PiL is within the imperatives of Islamic teachings to fulfill the rationality of human faculty. Dr. Alih and the PiL team are working on Project Iqra for Tawi-Tawi. Iqra means seek knowledge.

"The search for knowledge is a major religious struggle," Dr. Alih said. "It is for this reason that the Islamic world welcomes the wonders of today's information technology. PiL is considered a part of the Muslim intellectual pursuit for a better quality of life such as those offered by scientific tools and processes."

Another key result that differentiated PiL in the Philippines is the creation of an online community for teachers. The PiL website (www.pil.ph) shows that there are already more than 3,100 members of the PiL teacher community. More than 200 of these teachers have online portfolios, according to Fr. Jomar Legaspi, president of learn.ph and chair of the PiL Advisory Council.

Jacoba, who also received a global recognition from Microsoft in the year 2000 for outstanding achievement in anti-piracy marketing, expects PiL to train around 50,000 public school teachers when the grant expires in 2008. By this time, he envisions that a nationwide education system has already been set up that will facilitate a sustainable ICT-education environment for teachers and students.

"Through PiL, I hope that we will be able to help the Philippines to produce a globally competitive workforce. Filipinos can be world-class across all fields. We just need to give them the right tools so that they may realize their full potential," Jacoba said.

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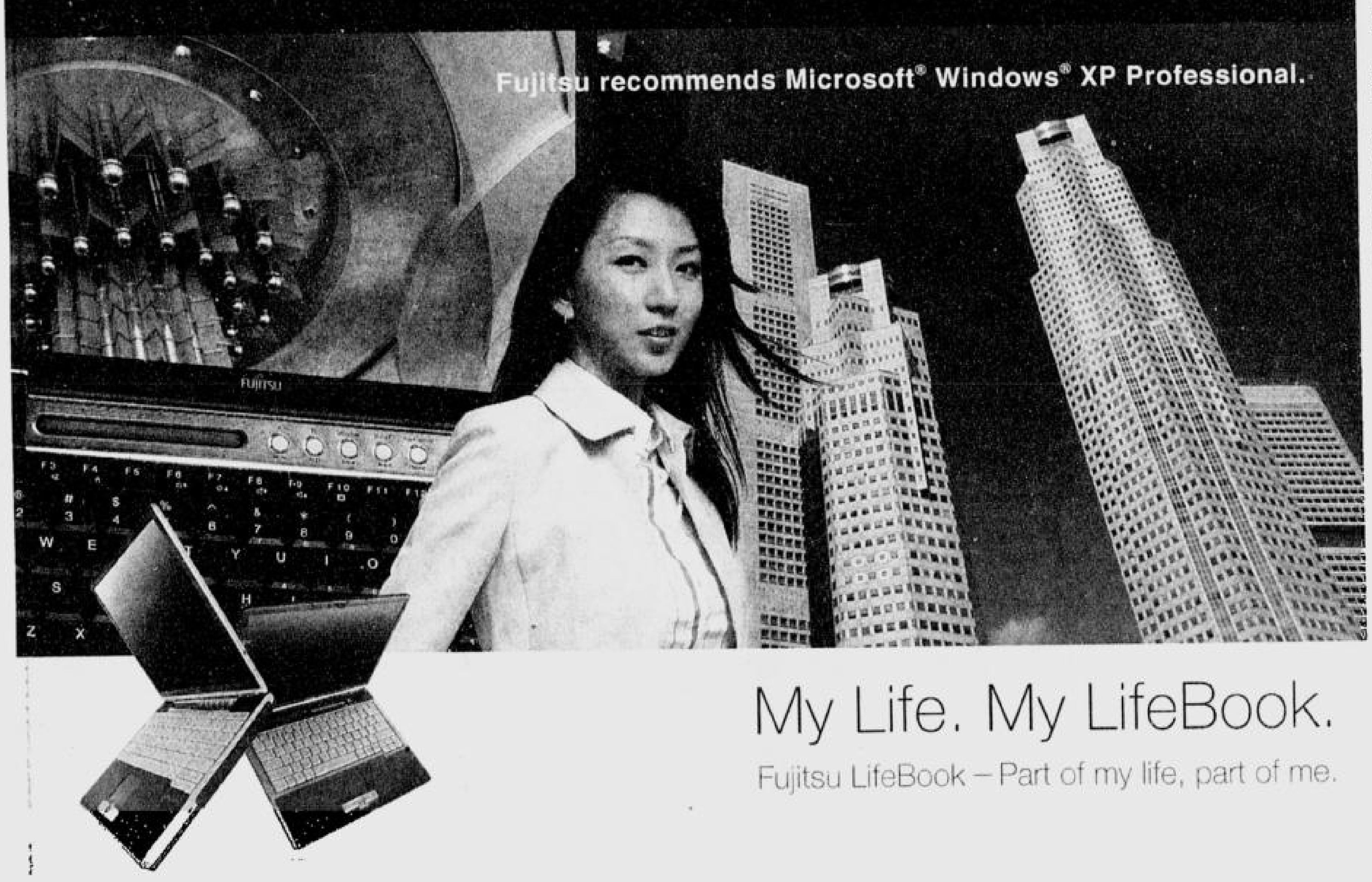

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MOBILE TECHNOLOGY

Finance, BOC see sharp rise in oil smuggling cases

By Michelle V. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance and the Bureau of Customs are closing ranks to thwart attempts to smuggle oil products given the unabated rise in the world market prices of crude oil.

Alexander Arevalo, officer-in-charge of the Customs bureau, said his office has tied up with the Philippine Shipping Agents Association to tighten monitoring of oil shipments brought through the country's ports. A memorandum of agreement was signed between the two bodies last week.

"Because of the skyrocketing prices of oil, smugglers could be forced to bring in oil products without paying the necessary duties," he said.

Arevalo said the private group composed of major shippers would provide the BOC with data on the kind and quantity of oil products ordered by importers at least 36 hours before arrival.

Prior to the signing of the MOA, the BOC would only know what goods entered the country's ports after the shipments arrive.

"The shippers will serve as a third-party information source. They will help in our audit function because customs officials would know early on what they should check out for when auditing," Arevalo said.

Arevalo, who replaced resigned Customs Commissioner Alberto Lina last month, said oil accounts for 15 percent of the BOC's revenues from duties.

The DOF, head agency of the BOC, has initiated the use of a chemical technology that will help Customs personnel better detect smuggled oil products.

The DOF has directed the BOC to make use of the technology within the next month or two, Arevalo said.

The BOC chief said the technology involved the use of a certain chemical—a colorless dye—that will mark oil products whose duties have been paid by the importers.

Arevalo said the BOC would secure the chemical technology and would implement its use for auditing with the help of the local petroleum industry.

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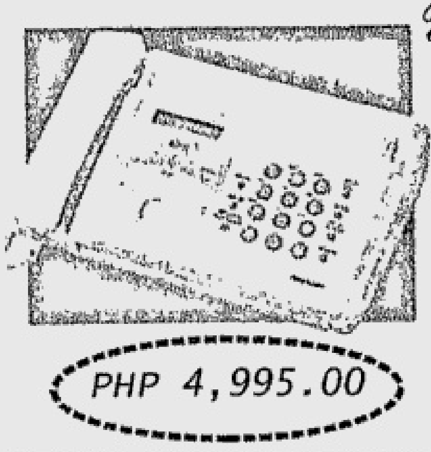

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The nightmare of a federal government

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General

JOSE V. Abueva's dream of a Philippine federal republic with a parliamentary government is one enormous nightmare.

In his book, Charter Change for Good Governance, Abueva wants to revise the Constitution and break up the Philippines into 11 independent states: Bangsamoro (ARMM), Davao Region & Central Mindanao, Zamboanga Peninsula & Northern Mindanao, Central & Eastern Visayas, Western Visayas-Palawan, Bicol, Southern Luzon, Metro Manila (NCR), Central Luzon, Cordillera and Northern Luzon.

The provinces in each state will be fused. For example, in the State of Southern Luzon, the provinces of Rizal, Cavite, Batangas, Quezon, Aurora, Mindoro Occidental, Mindoro Oriental, Marinduque, Romblon will disappear from the map as separate entities.

Abueva does not say where the capital of the State of Southern Luzon will be.

Will it be Antipolo? Pasig? Cavite? Batangas? Lucena? Why not Calapan or Boac? The choice will already be a contentious issue among the Tagalogs.

Never in history

Then, the 11 states will be stitched into the Federal Republic of the Philippines.

Never in history has a country been divided into smaller countries and patched up together again as a federation.

In all the federations formed around the world, the member-states existed long before the decision to federate was made.

The first federation was the United States. After winning the Revolutionary War against the British, the Americans could not quite figure out exactly what to do. But the governors of the 13 colonies that had been in existence for about 100 years were adamant.

None wanted to give up his turf. Thus, the federation was formed.

The four original members of the Canadian federation—Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick—had existed for about 100 years before they decided that they would be economically stronger if they federate.

The Federal Republic of Germany, organized after World War II, consists of states, such as Bavaria, Hesse and Saxony that trace their origins to medieval times.

Nearer home, the Malaysian federation is composed of sultanates established by the British during their long colonial rule.

Abueva wants to form the federation in two stages.

The more developed states can be operational within the first five years. The less developed states will be given 10 years to qualify for membership.

Transition period

During the 10-year transition period, the Philippines will be neither fish nor fowl. The instability all over the archipelago will be unimaginable.

Even if the country survives the transition period, breaking up the Philippines into 11 independent states is inherently dangerous.

It could lead to secession—possibly civil war—and ultimately total disintegration.

About 80 years after the Declaration of Independence, the US was locked in a terrible civil war when the southern states seceded. More Americans died in that war than in all the wars afterwards put together.

Yugoslavia, the federation forged by Marshal Tito, is now completely broken up. The USSR lost the Balkan states and more states, like Chechnya, want to break away.

Abueva wants the Filipino people to sail into uncharted seas, in a leaky boat, steered by dreamers who cannot see beyond the horizon.

Just thinking about it scares me half to death. (Next week I will take up Abueva's ideas on a parliamentary government.)

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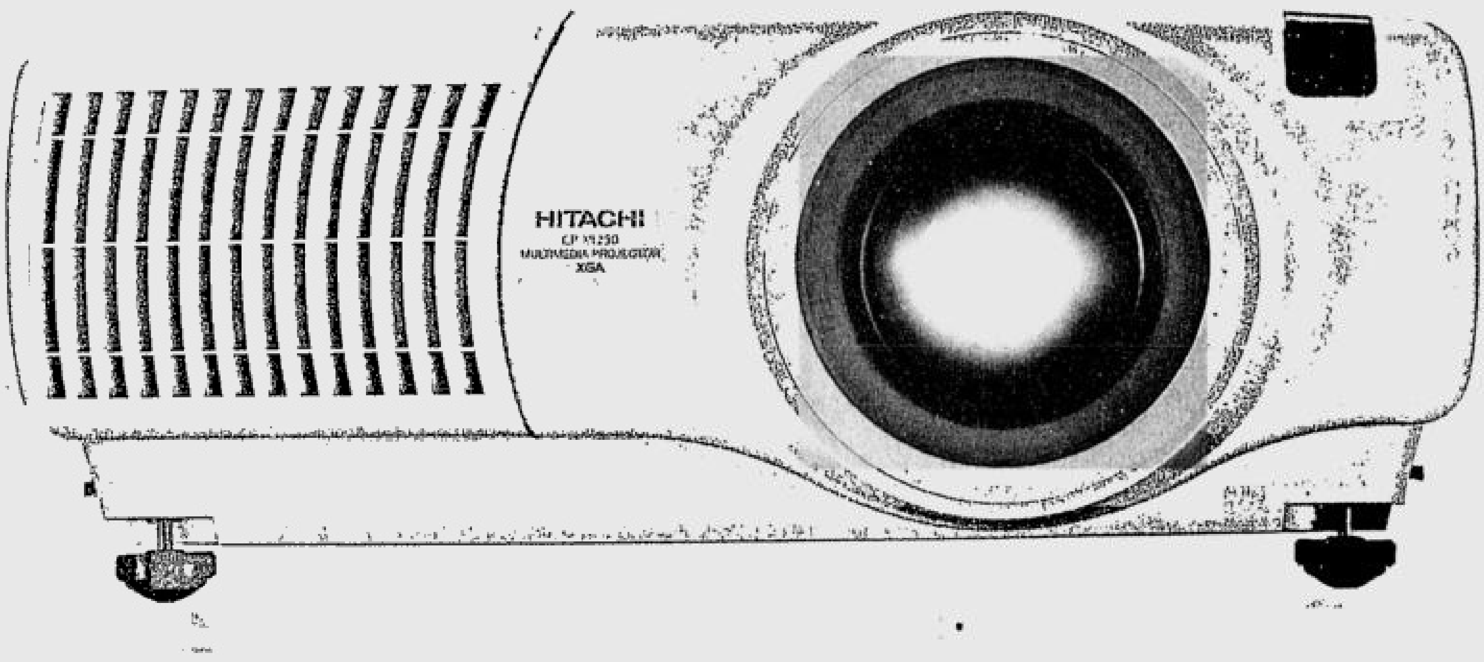

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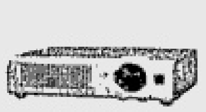

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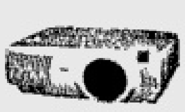

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Customs cracks down on tax credit fraud

By Michelle V. Remo

THE BUREAU of Customs has created a body that will crack down on those suspected of engaging in tax credit fraud.

Alexander Arevalo, Customs officer-in-charge, has ordered the establishment of the Tax Credit Committee to be composed of senior officials of the BOC.

Tax credit fraud has resulted in billions of pesos in lost revenue for the cash-strapped government, Arevalo said.

The BOC chief said the committee would study ways on how syndicates and unscrupulous individuals commit tax credit fraud, and come up with measures to stop these activities. The committee is also expected to suggest measures to facilitate the granting of tax credits to legitimate claimants.

Tax credit fraud usually comes in the form of selling either fake or used tax credit certificates (TCCs). It is also committed by individuals or groups who falsely claim to have earned tax credits and then apply for TCCs.

The biggest cases of tax credit fraud to date are the ones involving the couple Faustino and Gloria Chingkoe, and the Tan family headed by its matriarch Genoveva.

The Chingkoes and the Tans were alleged to have sold fraudulently secured TCCs to various companies. The transferees of the TCCs used the certificates to pay their taxes.

This illegal practice is said to have cost the government about P5 billion in potential taxes.

The creation of the Tax Credit Committee followed an earlier directive of the BOC to temporarily suspend the sale of TCCs while the agency was studying how to prevent cases of tax credit fraud.

Arevalo last month took over from resigned Customs Commissioner Alberto Lina.

The BOC, the second-biggest revenue source of the government, failed to meet its collection target for the first seven months of the year.

Pre-need firm pins hopes on recovery scheme

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

COLLEGE ASSURANCE Plan Philippines Inc. (CAP) is now pinning its hopes on a recovery plan it submitted to the government regulator on Friday, hoping to continue its business and possibly even post a turnaround.

CAP and the Securities and Exchange Commission did not release copies of the recovery plan on Friday.

But according to CAP lawyer Deogracias Fellone of Poblador, Bautista & Reyes Law offices, the plan in a nutshell calls for equity and capital infusion using proceeds from the development of its real estate projects and MRT bonds.

"If CAP is allowed to continue as an ongoing concern, it could turn the company around," Fellone said.

Theoretical

The scheme also called for measures to trim expenses and manage liabilities.

CAP said that, with the recovery plan, it could beef up its trust fund to P20.8 billion in eight years.

Fellone said the proposed trust fund build-up would also wipe out the pre-need firm's assessed deficit of P17 billion.

Fellone said that the deficiency in the trust fund "is more theoretical than real, it is part of our challenge and argument against the (SEC's) show cause order."

Rehabilitation

CAP uses the trust fund to settle the tuition of its plan holders.

But should the SEC insist on taking over the troubled pre-need firm and replacing its management, then CAP would be forced to take the fight to court, Fellone said.

Fellone also said that CAP is not shutting its doors to a possible rehabilitation petition to be filed with the local court, as CAP's contemporaries Platinum Plans and Pacific Plans had done.

"In terms of filing for rehab, CAP is not prioritizing that option, but it is always an option for us," Fellone said. "We will review consequences and determine what is in the best interest of the plan holders."

CAP said in a statement that it would challenge SEC move to place the firm under a management committee "in the guise of regulation." It said such authority could only be exercised as an incident of the SEC's quasi-judicial functions which were already transferred to the regular court. The challenge came out in CAP's 40-page response submitted to the SEC Friday.

CAP is now pushing to be given its dealer's license back, which was suspended in August last year when the pre-need firm ran into financial problems.

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Banks raise stakes in real estate stocks, debt papers

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE COUNTRY's commercial banks have been increasing their investments in real estate stocks and debt papers, indicating optimism on the volatile sector's turnaround from the slump caused by the Asian currency turmoil of 1997.

The banks' investments in securities issued by real estate companies surged by 45.9 percent as of end-March to P17 billion from a year ago, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said.

The BSP said bank lending to the real estate sector contracted by 1.9 percent to P182 billion in the same period but this was because part of their exposure was sold through Special Purpose Vehicle transactions.

The increase in non-loan real estate exposure of banks was driven by the rise in equity investments to P14 billion from only P8.6 billion a year ago. The rest consisted of investments in commercial papers of real estate companies, which stood at P2.98 billion as of end-March from P3.1 billion.

Compared to a year ago, the commercial bank sector's real estate loan exposure—including those booked by their trust departments—fell by 3.4 percent.

As a result, the share of real estate loans to the industry's total outstanding loans declined to 11.3 percent from 11.8 percent a quarter ago and 12.1 percent a year ago.

Of the total loan exposure, 96.4 percent represented lending by the banks, with the rest by their trust departments. About 84.5 percent of the total loans was granted to commercial projects, while 15.5 percent was extended to individual borrowers for the acquisition of residential units.

The BSP said the decline in the real estate loans as of end-March was influenced by the transactions of three universal banks.

"The real estate loans of these banks dropped by a total of P5.5 billion due to full payments made by borrowers and sales of real estate loans to SPVs," the BSP said.

The SPV Law reduced the taxes and fees usually collected in connection with the sale or transfer of assets. It waived the documentary stamp tax, capital gains tax and VAT (expanded value added tax) and reduced the registration/transfer fees by 50 percent.

Real estate loans represent 91.5 percent of the industry's total P199.3 billion exposure to the real estate industry during the period. The rest includes investments in securities issued by real estate companies.

The ratio of the banks' past due real estate loans declined to 19.5 percent from 21.9 percent a year ago.

DBP fund . . .

From page B5

Locally produced ethanol will come from San Carlos Bio-Energy Inc. (SCBI), a joint venture between the National Development Corp. and Bronzeoak Philippines.

Upon the start of commercial operations in 2007, the SCBI integrated facility in San Carlos, Negros Occidental will be able to produce some 100,000 liters of bio-ethanol a day in its distillery plant.

It will also have a cane milling plant with a throughput capacity of 1,500 metric tons of cane daily, as well as a co-generation power plant that will produce around 9 megawatts (MW) of power, of which 4 MW will be sold to the grid.

David said SCBI was one of the firms that expressed interest in tapping the DBP loan facility.

Apart from ethanol projects, he said the DBP was also looking at providing funding for wind and solar power projects.

"But we'd like to see more hydro and geothermal, including mini-hydro projects," he said.

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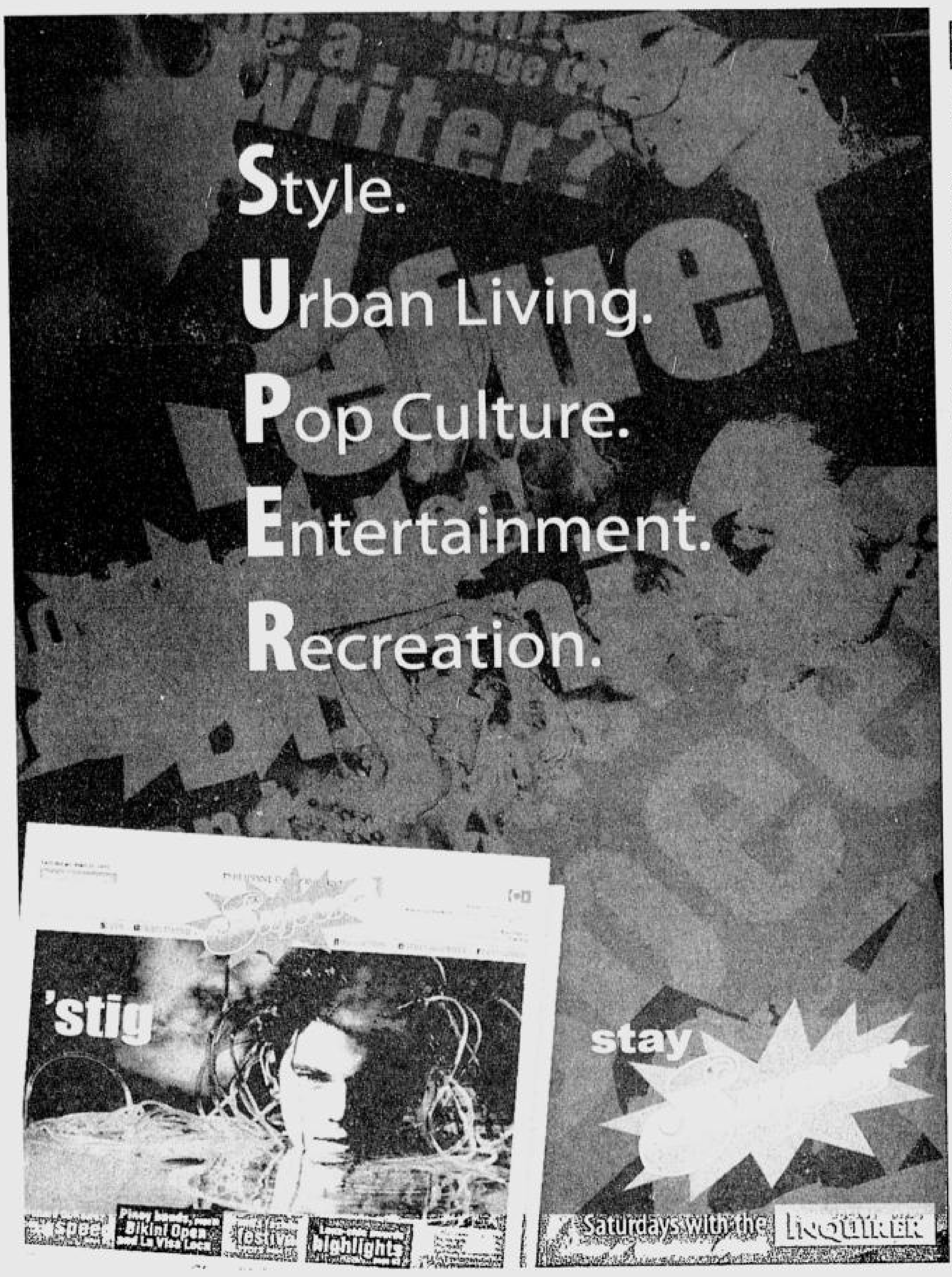

Surging crude puts RP . . .

From page B1

The world's daily oil demand now stands at 87 million barrels, with the potential of jumping to 140 million barrels in the next 30 years. With global proven oil reserves at 1.047 trillion barrels, supplies will run out in 33 years.

According to the US Department of Energy, global output must grow by 45.3 million barrels a day to satisfy global demand. Unless new investments are infused in the oil sector, supplies may run out in as early as 25 years.

In a paper titled "Rising Oil Prices and the Crippling of Our Economy," Energy Undersecretary Peter Anthony Abaya says the necessary investments to enable supply to keep up with demand come up to a whopping $3 trillion.

With China's rapidly improving economy, more and more Chinese are expected to own vehicles in the coming years, further jacking up fuel demand. Right now, each China resident consumes about two barrels of oil a year. An average American, on the other hand, uses 30 barrels of oil annually.

If the average China man catches up with an average American's lifestyle, Abaya says China's demand will go up by 45 billion barrels a year, enough to wipe out the Saudi Arabian oil reserves in less than five years.

"Indications of peaking supplies are more evident now than ever. Thus, with less oil available, competition for it will increase, and the struggle for its control will become more and more acute than ever. World prices are expected to continue surging to new highs," he says.

According to documents from the Department of Energy, the regional benchmark Dubai crude surged to an average of $56 a barrel in the first 18 days of August, more than $3 higher than the July average of $52.83. Its highest price ever was recorded Aug. 12 at $57.80 a barrel.

Local scenario

With international oil prices escalating to historic highs, the Philippines, which imports nearly all of its oil requirements, has not been able to escape the harsh reality of the situation. However, local pump price increases have not been as big as they should be.

While world prices of unleaded gasoline have increased by 56 percent since December, Abaya says local pump prices have gone up by less than half that rate. World diesel prices have risen by 39 percent, but local prices have not increased as much.

"If (oil) prices stabilize at present levels, we are looking at P2.50-P3 a liter increases for gasoline and about 50 centavos a liter more for diesel. It does not seem that prices are ready to cool off. I forecast strong global demand for both fuels come September," he says.

He adds that the relatively moderate rise in world diesel prices as compared with those of unleaded gasoline since December leaves room for sudden upticks.

It is highly possible for diesel prices to surge past the $77.04-a-barrel all-time high posted early last month and even breach $80 for the first time ever in the coming months, he says.

Also, he says the advent of the winter months in the western hemisphere is expected to pull world prices further up, particularly those of diesel, as it is usually used as heating fuel.

Since the start of the year, gasoline and diesel prices have both increased 15 times by a total of P7.85 and P7.55 a liter, respectively.

On a broader scope, the country's oil import bill has risen dramatically from only 7.7 percent of gross domestic product in 1995 to 22 percent last year, one of the worst in Asia, Abaya states in his paper.

For the first five months of the year, the country's oil import bill soared 27.2 percent to $2.3 billion from only $1.8 billion in the same period last year, despite the 8.6-percent decline in actual oil demand.

Hurting large oil users

The rise in world oil prices has had a domino effect on prices of commodities and services, particularly in the public transport sector.

The oil-intensive airline industry, for example, has seen fuel costs eat up more of its operating expenses since the start of the year.

Danilo Mojica, general manager of Gokongwei-owned Cebu Pacific Air, says fuel now accounts for about 38 percent of the company's overall costs, rising from 35 percent in early 2004.

Jet fuel now costs about $70 a barrel against $45 a year ago. In May 2003, the price of aviation turbo was only $28.25 a barrel.

To further cope with rising fuel costs, local carriers Cebu Pacific and Philippine Airlines, as with their foreign counterparts, have sought—and were given—the Civil Aeronautics Board's nod to increase fares.

The airline industry is not the only one suffering from the seemingly incessant rise in oil prices. Bus operators are likewise lamenting the surge in oil prices as fuel costs now account for 40 to 50 percent of their operating expenses from only about 20 percent some years ago.

Integrated Metro Bus Operators president Claire dela Fuente says that despite the P2 fare increase that the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board has approved for ordinary buses, the recent successive fuel price increases have prompted bus operators to seriously consider seeking yet another fare increase.

"But the problem with raising our fares again is that people may no longer ride buses. They may shift to other modes of transport or just choose to stay home during the weekends instead of go out," she says.

Crippling the economy

On a macroeconomic level, the rise in oil prices will not only boost inflation but will also cut the country's GDP growth.

Economic Planning Secretary Augusto Santos says that if world crude prices hit the range of $60 to $70 a barrel for the balance of the year, the 2005 inflation rate will surge to 8-8.1 percent.

Higher prices will then dampen domestic demand, cutting GDP growth to 5.2 percent if crude price reaches $60 a barrel or to 5.1 percent if crude cost hits $70 from an original forecast of 5.3 percent.

"The extraordinarily continuous rise in oil prices, which is clearly beyond our country's control, poses significant challenges to the country's economic growth. (But) in general, the results show that the Philippine economy is resilient to oil price shocks," Santos says.

As to how resilient, the country's economic managers are not about to just sit around and wait for a confirmation of sorts. Measures have already been prepared to help the country better cope with further expected oil price spikes. Palatable or not, some of these measures may just have to be shoved down Filipinos' throats if only to save the country from an oil-related economic collapse.

(To be continued)

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Special Events Schedule

AUGUST 31, 2005
Wednesday

10:00 A.M. - 12:00 NN
Function Room A
Forum on "The Leadership Challenge" Speaker: Mr. Dennis S. Ycasiano
by University of the Philippines Library Science Alumni Association (UPLSAA)

10:00 A.M. - 12:00 NN
Activity Area 1
Creating a Personalized Graffiti Pencil Pouch for Kids
by The Thought Factory (TTF)

10:00 A.M. - 12:00 NN
Playstreet Story Telling
(with admission fee)

10:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.
Activity Area 2
Basic Hair Cutting
by Bagong Henerasyon Foundation, Inc. (BHFI)

10:30 A.M. - 11:30 A.M.
Function Room B
Launching of Reader's Digest English Reading Program and English Learning Books
by A-Z Direct Marketing, Inc.

1:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.
Function Room A
Symposium on the State of Filipiniana Indigenous Materials by Philippine Association of Academic Research Libraries (PAARL)

1:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.
Playstreet Clay Molding and Arts & Crafts
(With admission fee)

1:30 P.M. - 3:30 P.M.
Activity Area 1
Transfer Printing on a Coin/Key Tray (TTF)

2:00 P.M. - 3:30 P.M.
Function Room B
"Computer Aided Instruction and Interactive Learning How to conduct a Virtual Lab Class"
by IBC Infotech, Inc.

2:30 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.
Activity Area 2
Storytelling Session and Origami Workshop for Kids by Museo Pambata (MP)

4:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.
WTC Lobby
Opening Ceremonies

SEPTEMBER 1, 2005
Thursday

10:00 A.M. - 12:00 NN
Function Room B
Forum on "Promoting Effective Reading Skills: A Challenge to Librarians, Teachers and Students"
by Philippine Association of Teachers of Library and Information Science (PATLS) & The Book Talk Society of the Philippines (BTSP)

10:00 A.M. - 11:30 A.M.
WTC Lobby
Seminar and Book Launching: New Age Learning by Pearson Education, Resource Speaker: Ms. Barbara Field by C & E Publishing, Inc.

10:00 A.M. - 12:00 NN
Activity Area 1
Preserving Memories On Photo Tiles (TTF)

10:00 A.M. - 12:00 NN
Playstreet Arts & Crafts
(with admission fee)

10:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.
Activity Area 2
Reflexology Workshop (BHFI)

10:30 A.M. - 12:00 NN
Function Room A
Seminar: NBDB Efforts Towards Quality Filipino Books by National Book Development Board

1:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.
Function Room A
Forum on Innovations and Strategy: "The Risk and Choice in Shaping User-Centered Libraries" Speaker: Mrs. Lourdes T. David, Ateneo de Manila University by Association of Special Libraries of the Philippines (ASLP)

1:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.
Playstreet Story Telling and Arts & Crafts
(with admission fee)

1:30 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.
WTC Lobby
Drawing Workshop for Kids with Mr. Noel Cabangon and Mr. Robert Alejandro by Ang Ilustrador ng Kabataan (INK)

1:30 P.M. - 3:30 P.M.
Activity Area 1
Kiddie Art on Tiles (TTF)

2:30 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.
Activity Area 2
Storytelling Session and Popped Fish-Making Workshop (MP)

3:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.
Function Room B
Symposium on Copyright Law by Publishers' Representatives Organization of the Philippines (PROP)

3:30 P.M. - 4:30 P.M.
Function Room A
Product Launching: National Geographic Kids Products
by Asia/Pacific Circulation Exponents, Inc.

4:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.
WTC Lobby
Fun Hale Rubber Foam Workshop (INK)

4:30 P.M. - 7:30 P.M.
Activity Area 1
Basic Animation
by Mowelfund Film Institute (MFI)

5:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.
Activity Area 2
Basic Hair Cutting (BHFI)

5:30 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.
Function Room A
Seminar on "Direct Marketing (DM):
Back to Basic and Beyond (Design for Booksellers)-Part I
by Book Development Association of the Philippines (BDAP)

SEPTEMBER 2, 2005
Friday

10:00 A.M. - 12:00 NN
Function Room A
Forum on " Environmental Health", Speaker: Ms. Chinchin Gutierrez by Medical and Health Librarians Association of the Philippines (MAHLAP)

10:00 A.M. - 12:00 NN
Function Room B
Forum on "Ethical Issues and Concerns in Collection and Development Management"
by Philippine Booksellers Association, Inc. & Philippine Librarians Association, Inc.

10:00 A.M. - 12:00 NN
Activity Area 1
Designing Souvenirs for Weddings, Birthdays, and Other Occasions (TTF)

10:00 A.M. - 12:00 NN
Playstreet Clay Molding
(with admission fee)

10:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.
Activity Area 2
Basic Hair Cutting (BHFI)

10:30 A.M. - 12:00 NN
WTC Lobby
The Making of Techniques in Digital Illustration (INK)

1:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.
Function Room A
Symposium: Can a Reproduction Rights Organization (RRO) Curb Illegal Photocopying in the Philippines?
by The International Federation of Reproduction Rights Organization & The Philippine Reproduction Rights Organization

1:00 P.M. - 2:00 P.M.
Function Room B
Discover and Explore:
"A Must Classroom Reality in Science Literacy"
A product seminar/workshop for Discovery Channel School, Resource Speaker: Charmaine Nicdao-Ramos Colegio San Agustin, Makati City by Verve Multi Media, Inc.

1:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.
Playstreet Story Telling and Arts & Crafts
(with admission fee)

1:30 P.M. - 3:30 P.M.
Activity Area 1
Turning Ordinary Prints into Canvas Works of Art (TTF)

2:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.
WTC Lobby
Balloon Art Workshop by Lollipop Safety Balloons Center (LSBC)
Admission Fee: Php 25.00

2:30 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.
Activity Area 2
Storytelling Session and Paper Bag Puppets-Making Workshop (MP)

4:00 P.M. - 5:30 P.M.
Function Room B
Seminar on "Introduction to Singapore's Elementary Education Curriculum and Textbooks"
by Edcrisch International, Inc.

4:30 P.M. - 7:30 P.M.
Activity Area 1
Basic Animation (MFI)

5:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.
WTC Lobby
Portfolio Show (INK)

5:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.
Activity Area 2
Reflexology Workshop (BHFI)

5:30 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.
Function Room A
Seminar on "Direct Marketing (DM): Back to Basic and Beyond (Design for Booksellers)- Part 2 (BDAP)

6:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.
The Makati Skyline 2005 Grand Book Launch by OMF Literature, Inc.

SEPTEMBER 3, 2005
Saturday

10:00 A.M. - 12:00 NN
Function Room A
Book Launching: Learning to Live and Love, Learning to Love, Love @ Sex Pag-Usapan Natin, Educational Guidance in Human Love, The Truth and Meaning of Human Sexuality by Word & Life Publication

10:00 A.M. - 12:00 NN
Activity Area 1
The Children's Library Story Telling Activity

10:00 A.M. - 12:00 NN
Activity Area 2
Stone Printing: Paperweights and Desk Signs (TTF)

10:00 A.M. - 12:00 NN
Playstreet Story Telling and Bubble Demo
(with admission fee)

10:00 A.M. - 8:00 P.M.
WTC Lobby
Science Fun Factory by Samahang Pisika ng Pilipinas
Admission Fee: Php 25.00

1:00 P.M. - 2:30 P.M.
Activity Area 1
The Children's Library Storytelling Activity

1:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.
Function Room A
Lego Early Childhood/HCA Seminar
by Felta Multi-Media, Inc.

1:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.
Function Room B
Book Launching: Nobela at Mga Maikling Kuwento ni Edgar Reyes, Introduction to Economic Botany Pythopharmacology-Phytotherapy by Dietmar J. Rummel, Language Proficiency Training for Call Centers
by C & E Publishing, Inc.

1:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.
Activity Area 2
Crystal Lamination. Trinket Boxes (TTF)

1:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.
Playstreet Clay Molding and Arts & Crafts
(with admission fee)

3:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.
Activity Area 1
Lego Robotics Demonstration
by Felta Multi-Media, Inc.

4:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.
Function Room A
Dianetics Lecture
by New Era Publications International Aps.

4:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.
Function Room B
Book Launching: ANI 31 Metaphors of Love (Talinghaga ng Puso), GROOVY: The Colors of Pacita Abad in DVD by Cultural Center of the Philippines

4:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.
Activity Area 2
Hands-on-Activity (Discovery Channel Interactive)
by Verve Multi Media, Inc.

5:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.
Activity Area 1
Reflexology Workshop (BHFI)

5:30 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.
Activity Area 2
Basic Hair Cutting (BHFI)

6:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.
Function Room B
Book Launching of "LEGACY: One Man to Another, Exhortations to the Men of Today from Over 50 Respected Christian Leaders and Influencers"
by Church Strengthening Ministry

SEPTEMBER 4, 2005
Sunday

10:00 A.M. - 12:00 NN
Activity Area 1
Crystallized Photo Frames and Magnetic Message Holders (TTF)

10:00 A.M. - 12:00 NN
Playstreet Story Telling and Bubble Demo
(with admission fee)

10:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.
Activity Area 2
Basic Hair Cutting (BHFI)

10:00 A.M. - 8:00 P.M.
WTC Lobby
Science Fun Factory by Samahang Pisika ng Pilipinas
Admission Fee: Php 25

1:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.
Activity Area 1
Print Lifting Images to Cotton Drink Coasters/ Mats (TTF)

1:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.
Playstreet
Clay Moulding, Arts & Crafts
(with admission fee)

2:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.
Function Room A
Purpose of Life, Resurrection and Hereafter in Islam According to Qur'an and Risale-I Nur by Eternal Publications Trading

2:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.
Activity Area 2
"Meditations & Music Reflections"
Authors accompanied by invited musicians
by Church Strengthening Ministry

4:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.
The Makati Skyline National Book Awards by Manila Critics Circle
(by invitation only)

4:30 P.M. - 7:30 P.M.
Activity Area 1
Basic Animation (MFI)

5:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.
Activity Area 2
Reflexology Workshop (BHFI)

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Breaking down . . .

From page B1

players like Petron Corp. and Pilipinas Shell, which have their own refineries.

This stands in stark contrast to the pre-1998 regulated environment where raw material costs accounted for only a third of the price at the gas pump. On the average, only 36 percent of the pump price is shared among dealers and haulers, the oil firms, and the government (in the form of duties and taxes) under the deregulated regime.

What this means is that the Oil Deregulation Law exposed the local consumers to the volatile crude oil price movements abroad, but also reduced the amount collected by the government and the oil firms under the regulated regime.

More importantly, the situation for diesel fuel is even more reflective of international market conditions, according to the IRC's study. Under the deregulated regime, 78 percent of what motorists pay for diesel fuel is attributable directly to the cost of raw materials and production.

On the average, only 22 percent goes to duties and taxes, the oil firms, and dealers and haulers. In fact, oil firms that import all their diesel inventory even lose two percent on every liter they sell at the pumps.

Finally, the IRC study also reveals that prices for the all-important liquefied petroleum gas (LPG)—which is used mainly for household and industrial cooking—is even more dependent on the movement of international crude oil prices.

According to the IRC, 85 percent of the LPG price is attributable directly to raw materials and production costs, up from 65 percent in 1998.

On the average, about half of the country's petroleum needs are imported as finished products while the other half is refined locally using imported crude oil.

Barrel breakdown

Every barrel of crude oil the country buys is refined into different petroleum products, with LPG and gasoline accounting only for a fraction of the 159 liters that each barrel holds.

The bulk come out of the refining process in the form of diesel fuel and fuel oil that are used for lubricants, and other industrial applications.

While Dubai crude oil is priced at $57.30 a barrel last week, a full barrel of gasoline alone would cost $71.50. Surprisingly, a barrel of diesel at prevailing international market prices would cost up to $74.21.

Diesel is more expensive than gasoline, which is the opposite of the local situation where diesel is cheaper than gasoline—a phenomenon attributed by local petroleum firms to the political pressure of selling a "socially sensitive" product like diesel.

As it stands, the IRC believes that the consumers are not even feeling to full brunt of the effects of deregulation.

Analyses show that "the theoretical prices of oil products are much higher than the actual pump prices," it says. Thus, it concludes that "oil product price increases were mainly caused by the peso devaluation and the increase in the world price of Dubai crude; not deregulation."

GMA earmarking ₱700M for expansion

By Clarissa S. Batino

GMA Network Inc. is spending at least P700 million this year up to next year to expand its presence in other major local viewing regions in the country and catch up with the rating lead of its fierce rival on a nationwide basis.

Jimmy Duavit, executive vice president of GMA, said the network would spend P200 million for infrastructure that would improve its signal and reach in various areas, including Cebu, Davao, Dagupan, Naga, Bacolod and Bicol.

The amount will cover new antennas and transmitters needed to make GMA's broadcast in these areas as superior as that in Mega Manila, where it leads in the ratings.

This is on top of the amount earmarked for marketing, promotion and new programs, which will be launched in Cebu, Davao and Iloilo.

The country's most profitable broadcast firm is also allocating P500 million for the construction of two new studios in the GMA complex in Quezon City.

GMA president Felipe Gozon said the two studios would be built on a 2,500-square meter lot. He said the studios would be able to accommodate an audience of 1,000 each.

He said the ongoing studio expansion was necessary with the forthcoming relaunch of Channel 11, whose programming would come from GMA. Channel 11 will start commercial operations in November.

Channel 11 is owned by evangelist Eddie Villanueva's Jesus is Lord Movement. Villanueva and GMA signed a deal last year for GMA to operate the station. The two parties will share Channel 11's profit.

GMA has kept its rating lead in Mega Manila over ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp., based on the latest survey.

Gov't may junk ₱3-B NDC float

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE GOVERNMENT may shelve the planned P3-billion bond float of National Development Co., which was aimed at raising funds for infrastructure projects that support the agriculture sector.

Trade Secretary Peter B. Favila said a bond issue, which the NDC board has yet to approve, could push through if it would not entail a guarantee from the national government.

Favila said NDC, the government's investment arm, was instead eyeing part of the government financial institutions' proceeds from agricultural loans.

Presidential Decree No. 717, which aims at providing credit and financing system for agrarian reform efforts, require government and private banking institutions to set aside a quarter of their loanable funds for agricultural credit.

"We are looking at how we can get portion of the proceeds from these loans for infrastructure projects related to (agrarian reform projects)," he said.

"We might as well use at least part of those proceeds for such projects because the proceeds, (when remitted to government coffers) get 'lost' in the national budget," he added.

Last month, the trade department announced it was set to offer NDC Agri-Agra (AA) bonds to raise some P3 billion for agriculture and agrarian reform support facilities.

The 10-year AA Bonds will be obligations of the NDC with a direct and unconditional government guarantee. Buying the bonds will count as an an alternative means for banks to comply with the mandate of PD 717.

The planned bond issue was supposed to account for the third tranche of NDC's AA bonds issued following Executive Order No. 83.

Signed in 1998, EO No. 83 provided for the issuance of long-term bonds aimed at supporting projects for economic growth under a revitalized rural development program.

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Ongpin group vows to turn around ETPI

By Clarissa S. Batino

ISM COMMUNICATIONS Corp. of the Ongpin Group is confident it can turn around the operations of Eastern Telecommunications Phils. Inc.

ISM Corp. president Eric Recto said the Ongpin Group wanted to complete its purchase of 57.7 percent of ETPI this year so it could start reviving the country's oldest telecommunications company.

ETPI lost heavily in the last six years. It had accumulated more than P1.5 billion in losses and had not had a fresh capital infusion during the period.

Recto said the company would infuse new capital into ETPI for investments in new technology that would transform it into a more relevant company to the market.

"We think we have the solution to turning ETPI around," Recto said in an interview.

Last month, ISM bought 17.7 percent of ETPI through a share swap with Aerocom Investors & Managers Inc., a holding company linked to the Nieto family. Aerocom will end up owning 8 to 10 percent of ISM.

ISM is also buying the 40 percent stake of Australian Gigahertz Network International Pty. Ltd.

The Ongpin Group had reportedly been fortifying its interest in the telecommunications sector due to plans to bring in Li Ka-shing's Hutchison Whampoa Ltd. of Hong Kong into the country.

Recto however denied the speculations.

"I can categorically say that ISM's intentions in ETPI are devoid of any involvement with Hutchison or with Extelcom," said Recto.

Acer's "Power-Packed" promo extends until August

'Another chance to get a free iPod Shuffle, printer , cell phone or memory upgrade with every purchase of an Acer notebook PC

Portability. Smart design. Hi-tech connectivity. Functionality. Now these are just some of the features that any mobile worker is sure to look for in a laptop. Not until today, when affordability and value-for-money has also become major factors that need to be considered!

Acer, one of the world's leading computer brands, has extended its "power-packed" promo to give notebook PC users another chance to save more on their computer purchases until August. Added values in the form of 1-year international traveler's warranty as well as free instant gifts also come with each "power-packed" package!

Dubbed as **The Acer Power-Packed Promo,** the same runs for an extended period from August 1-31 and has specifically been designed to give more Filipinos another chance to own branded mobile notebooks to suit their needs at a price that's much more affordable than their counterparts in the market.

For the entire duration of the promo, a wide range of **Acer TravelMate** notebooks will be sold at exceptionally low, low prices ranging from P49,900 to P99,900.

The range includes **Acer's TravelMate 3002WTCi** that boasts of Intel® Pentium® M Processor 740B, with 512MB DDR 2 memory and 60GB HDD, a 4-in-1 card reader and Integrated Bluetooth as well as an external DVD/CDRW combo drive and a 12.1" WXGA wide screen color display -- all packed in a lightweight, 1.4 kg. frame. Every purchase of **Acer's TravelMate 3002WTCi** at selected Acer dealers nationwide also comes with a free iPod Shuffle.

There's also **Acer's TravelMate 4651LCi, TravelMate 4102WLCi** and **TravelMate 4101WLCi** all of which are powered by the latest Intel® Centrino™ Mobile Technology that allows for wireless connectivity and utmost functionality. **TravelMate 4651LCi** is fueled by Intel® Pentium® M Processor 730 (1.6 GHz, 2MB L2 Cache, 533MHz FSB), with 512MB DDR 2 memory and 60GB HDD and is priced at P89,500 with a FREE iPod Shuffle. **TravelMate 4102WLCi,** meanwhile, possess an Intel® Pentium® M Processor 740 (1.7GHz, 2MB L2 Cache, 533MHz FSB) with 256MB DDR RAM memory and 60GB HDD. Priced at P84,000, it comes with an exciting add-on: FREE 512MB memory upgrade. What's more, in the promos' extended run, customers had the option to buy **TravelMate 4102WLCi** at 0% interest for 12 months, while cash buyers will receive a P5,000 worth of Nike Gift Checks as an added bonus. For those still longing to buy **Acer's TravelMate 4101WLCi,** no need to worry. Also armed with an Intel® Pentium® M Processor 730 (1.6 GHz, 2MB L2 Cache, 533MHz FSB), 256MB DDR memory and 60GB HDD plus 15.4" WXGA TFT LCD widescreen color monitor, it still comes with a FREE Nokia 3120 at a price of P81,900.

For those with extremely limited budget, **Acer's Aspire 3502WLCI** (P49,900), **TravelMate 4002LCi** (P75,900) and **TravelMate 2702 WLM** (P79,900) surely fits the bill. Buyers would still get the following freebies, such as: Epson USB C45 Printer for every purchase of **Aspire 3502WLCi**; Nokia 2600 for every purchase of **TravelMate 4002LCi** and iPod Shuffle awaits buyers of **TravelMate 2702WLM.**

Acer's notebook PCs come installed with Windows XP Home and a built-in LAN and 56K modem. Each model, which comes in the new Acer Folio design, comes complete with their own unique feature such as the **Acer SignalUp Technology** for stronger connectivity and improved wireless performance by 20-40%; **Acer eManager** that simplifies hard to access controls and settings; **Acer GridVista** that organizes your work in multi-window format; **Acer CrystalBrite Technology** that makes all images come alive in spectacular, cinematic color and a host of other features that will surely maximize one's computing experience.

For more details about the promo, interested parties may call the Acer Hotline at 815-3388 or call Axis Distribution, Inc. at 637-9991 and MSI-Digiland Philippines at 688-3333 or visit any Acer Authorized Retail Partners conveniently located all over the country. Visit Acer website at www.acer.com.ph

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IT STARTED as one man's means of augmenting a meager income; a housewife's way of making productive use of the empty hours during the day. Direct selling has since come a long way. Through political and economic challenges and changes, direct selling has moved steadily forward, fueled by every Filipino's dream of financial independence and success. Today, as a multibillion industry, direct selling remains as a strong engine for economic empowerment, not only in the Philippines but in the entire world as well.

This year's Direct Selling Congress takes a closer look at what's in store for the industry and seeks to highlight the industry's role as a major and formidable player in nation building. In the face of new challenges, unexpected changes, direct selling provides limitless opportunities and further kindles the Filipino entrepreneurial spirit.

Through hard work and continuous learning, the possibilities are endless and the future looks promising. Join us as we take this bold step forward.

Ina Quiogue
INA R. QUIOGUE
Chairperson
Direct Selling
Association of the Philippines

Direct Selling Association of the Philippines

THE DIRECT Selling Association of the Philippines is the national trade association of companies engaged in the business of direct selling and network marketing. It is affiliated with the World Federation of Direct Selling Associations with headquarters at Washington, D.C., U.S.A. DSAP is composed of twenty-seven member companies: Amway, Avon Cosmetics, Cosway, Filway Marketing, Forever Living, Gano Excel, Gioielli, GNLD, Herbalife, Lux Marketing, Mary Kay, New Image, Nikken, Nu Skin, The Peak Marketing, Phoenix Educational Systems, Reliv, Sara Lee Direct Selling, Sundance, Sunrider, Symmetry, Tianshi, Triumph, Tupperware, Unicity, Waters, and Felta Book Sales.

CONGRESS TOPICS

DAY 1

- MAPPING THE NEW BOUNDARIES OF DIRECT SELLING
- SECURING THE FUTURE: A CLOSER LOOK AT CONSUMER BEHAVIOR THROUGH BULLSEYE MARKETING
- SECURING THE FUTURE CONSIDERING GLOBAL TRENDS
- SECURING THE FUTURE: THE ROLE OF MARKETING IN DIRECT SELLING

DAY 2

- SECURING THE FUTURE BY HARNESSING TECHNOLOGY THROUGH MOBILE COMMUNICATION
- SECURING THE FUTURE THRU OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE
- SECURING THE FUTURE THRU SALES FORCE RETENTION

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Pasta that's so Pinoy, it's definitely world-class

THE FILIPINO has a lot to be proud of when it comes to cooking and food preparation, and Greenwich pasta is an excellent testimony to this. More Pinoy diners today-pasta lovers or not-are beginning to gain appreciation for different pasta dishes other than what we have been accustomed to, which is spaghetti. Thanks to Greenwich and its constantly innovating products, we are slowly becoming pasta perfectionists.

Take, for example, Greenwich's latest improvement of its lasagna. Like any other Greenwich product, this enhanced pasta variety has been created based on consumer insight revealing the Pinoy consumer's taste preference. Greenwich research and development specialists worked double time and whipped up what is now called the All-New Lasagna Supreme.

Secret spices

The all-new lasagna supreme is tastier because it has more and chunkier beef that you can actually bite with every fork serving. More high-grade premium tomatoes are also added along with secret spices to make the entire serving more flavorful. Its special blend of cream and cheese is now more generous to complete the ingredients that make three thick layers with the al dente pasta noodle for an extremely satisfying meal. On top of it all, it has retained its affordable price so you can get more without having to pay more.

Greenwich's creation of customer-friendly products is actually interesting. It usually takes just one R&D specialist to work solo for months, isolating him or herself in the company kitchen facilities. From there, taste tests are conducted in a place they call Sensorium where up to five varieties of a new or enhanced product is presented. The panel may include Greenwich main office staff, new product development officers and international chefs. After a series of tests and evaluation, the product is released for us to relish.

Creativity

R&D manager is Suzanne P. Cruz reveals that an atmosphere of creativity is encouraged in the Greenwich R&D division. "Our R&D specialists are food technologists who never stop working on what new products we can create and what can be made with existing Greenwich products. In fact, we have a lot of ideas, which we expect to develop once the perfect timing arrives," says Cruz.

It is therefore not surprising that Greenwich has come up with more pasta dishes through the years. Its spaghetti is distinctly Italian in taste and flavor. Its baked chicken macaroni is uniquely richer. Its latest pasta product, carbonara, is on league of its own with its extra creamy sauce.

Perhaps one of the most important reasons Greenwich past products have become popular among casual diners is the use of premium ingredients. What makes it even more exceptional is the Greenwich R&D specialists' knack for keeping in step with the maturing Pinoy taste. Taste and flavor is never sacrificed, and yet price manages to remain as popular as the products themselves. It's like having a hotel-prepared pasta dish at a fastfood cost. How's that for value for money?

Not too many people know that Greenwich Pizza Corp first began as Greenwich Pizza Pasta in Greenhills in the early '70s. Now as the number one pizza in the country, Greenwich pasta sure seems to be catching on fast.

Avadon Int'l supports PDMAEC 2005

AVADON International supports the 2nd PDMAEC 2005, the 2nd Philippine Die & Mold Machine Tools, Sheet Metals, Metalworking Machinery, Hardware, Equipment, Accessories and other related products and services exhibition and conference to be held from Aug. 25 to 28 at the World Trade Center Metro Manila. The event is organized by the industry's leading association in metalworking industry the Philippine Die & Mold Association of the Philippines.

Avadon International Corp is a Filipino-owned company behind Original KYK Tools and Equipments. The company has been the pioneer and exclusive agent of the KYK brand for more than 15 years. The KYK brand includes mechanical tools, industrial tools, safety equipment, carpentry tools, electronic tools, hobby tools, hand tools, gardening tools, grinding and cutting discs and hydraulic and floor jacks.

Avadon International continues its strong commitment to provide users with a complete line of high-performance yet reasonably priced home improvement tools and small-scale industrial equipment. The company continues to adopt to changing home improvement needs. Hence, the brand carries more diverse product lines such as garden tools and bathroom fixtures.

Visit Avadon and other leading exhibitors at PDMAEC 2005: 3M Philippines Inc, A&A Maquinas Ferramentas Corp, Aedacs, All Trans-Link Network Philippines Inc, Allen Specialty Products, Associated Swedish Steel Philippines, Inc, Automation Security Inc, Backje Philippines Inc, Bormaheco Inc, Centrex, CIM Technologies Inc, Colt Commercial, Edman Machtools Inc, Easterntrade Media Pte Ltd, Gaylan Technologies, Hardmetal Products Philippines Inc, Hong Kong Productivity Council, Integrated Machine Tool Sales Inc, JKFS Enterprises/JK Werzeuge, Jocelyn Forge Inc, Kenna Mytal Inc, Kodama Machinery Corp, Lionapex Philippines Inc, ME Industrial Machinery, Maedan Enterprise Inc, Maximetal Industries Inc, Mesco Inc, NGK Machinetools Singapore, Nicklaus Machinery Corp, OSA Industries Philippines Inc, Penta Technological Products Inc, Penta Technology Inc, Samsotite Plastic Co, Sandvik Philippines Inc, Sanford Corp, Seacad Technologies Inc, Singapore Pavilion (Bans Bach, Liberchem, Production Link, Riken, SL, Servo, TRG), TGRAF, Techno Molds Inc, Teknologix Inc, Teknoware Engineering Co, Tornos SA, Tornos Technologies Asia Limited, Transpo Sales Inc, US Commercial Service, Willem Machinery Co Inc, Wm. H. Rennolds Company Inc.

For inquiries, call professional events management company MAI Management Philippines at 898-2198 or 890-1087, or e-mail mai_mgt@compass.com.ph.

Nutrimetics launches age-defying breakthrough

SARA Lee Direct Selling Philippines, one of the country's premiere direct-selling companies, introduces its latest breakthrough in anti-aging skincare technology: the Nutrimetics Ultra Care+Defense Age Prevention Face Crème.

With its innovative, patented blend of advanced and natural ingredients, Nutrimetics Defense helps slow down the aging process by reducing the damaging effects of sunlight.

Scientific research has proven that sunlight causes two-thirds of skin aging by taking its toll on the skin's texture, tone and overall elasticity. This is specifically caused by UV-A radiation that penetrates the deeper layers of the skin, affecting collagen and elastin fibers that provide skin firmness.

Nutrimetics Defense provides stable UV-A and UV-B filters that block radiation and limit sunburn and other negative effects. Nutrimetics Defense also furnishes a patented anti-oxidant vitamin complex that goes deep into the skin's layers. Moisturizers and skin-compatible lipids also help reduce skin dryness.

Simply put, Nutrimetics Defense acts like a shield that stays over the skin all day. It reflects harmful ultraviolet light, slows down the aging process by more than 50 percent and helps keep you looking twice as young.

Nutrimetics has prospered from a small company established in 1961 to become Australia and New Zealand's premiere beauty and direct-selling company. With the purchase of Nutrimetics in 1997, Sara Lee infused strong marketing capabilities and resources with Nutrimetics expertise to build the world's most sophisticated line of naturally enriched, environmentally responsible skincare and cosmetics. Nutrimetics is exclusively available from Sara Lee Direct Selling's line of prestigious brands.

Other Sara Lee Direct Selling brands include Playtex, Hanes, Hanes Her Way, Wonderbra, Barely There, Just My Size, Girls' Attitudes, Champion, Colour Collection, Beauty Touch, Ivana, Georgie on Ice, VS Versus, Nutrimetics, Sanex, and Zwitsal.

For inquiries, call hotline 810-5402, or e-mail customer.relations@saraleedirectselling.ph.

Visit Celebrate Life Expo at SM Megamall

COME and join the celebration of life as Friendly Alliances and Media Expressions (FAME), publisher of Health & Lifestyle magazine, hosts Celebrate Life, a beauty, health and wellness exposition. It will be held at the SM Megamall Activity Center from Aug. 22 to 27. The exposition educates people on preventive healthcare, healthy lifestyle and self-care medication. It will be a gathering of companies that focus on beauty, healthcare and fitness industry. Among the highlights of the event will be exhibits of healthcare products, equipment and services which focus on hygiene, fitness, healthy diet, child care, sexual health, cosmetic and perfume. The event features different activities, such as free blood pressure testing, blood sugar and cholesterol screening, food and product sampling. Raffle prizes await lucky shoppers who will visit the exhibit. This event is made possible by FAME Inc in cooperation with SM Supermalls, Therapharma Inc, Bayer, New Smart and Moulinex.

Sara Lee

Direct Selling

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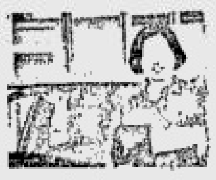
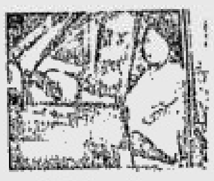
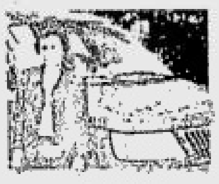

Vicky Zalata
Honda City - February 2004


Dulce Clemente
Mitsubishi Adventure - February 2004


Editha Rofer
Mitsubishi Adventure - March 2004

Dionisio Mirol
Toyota Revo - March 2004

Juliet Manalad
Toyota Revo DLX - April 2004

Floranda Chua
Toyota Corolla XL - April 2004

Carmen Panganiban
Mitsubishi L-300 - April 2004

Gloria Miranda
Toyota Corolla XL - April 2004

Merlita Cardoza
Chevrolet Aveo Hatchback - April 2004

Lorenda Pampasa
Toyota REVO DLX - May 2004

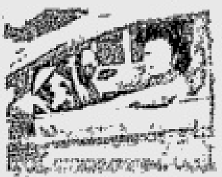
Nancy Abad
Toyota Vios 1.3 - May 2004

Emma Almazar
Honda City - May 2004

Ruby Lyn Macadaog
Honda City Sedan 1.3S M/T - June 2004

Menchu Buado
Honda City 1.3S M/T - June 2004

Tess Mendido
Nissan Sentra 1.3L - July 2004


Araceli Repatacoda
Honda City 1.3S M/T - July 2004

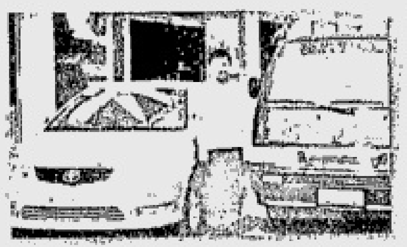
Teodora Sadsad
Toyota Vios 1.3E - August 2004

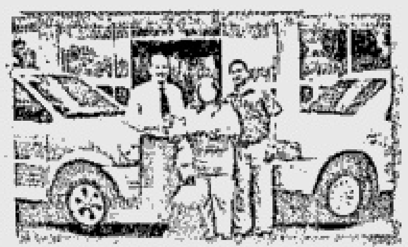
Mercy Maligalig
Toyota Vios 1.3 M/T - August 2004

Mary Cortes
Toyota Vios 1.3 - September 2004

Betty Panopio
Toyota Vios 1.3 - September 2004

Elnora Decorona
Mitsubishi L300 FB - September 2004


Emmanuel Samson
Toyota Vios 1.5 / Nissan Urvan Shuttle
May 2004

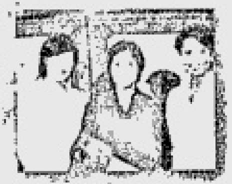

Rosello Nanescan
Isuzu Crosswind XUVi / Ford Everest
May 2004

Norman Ortega
Isuzu Crosswind XUV / Mit.L300 FB
December 2004

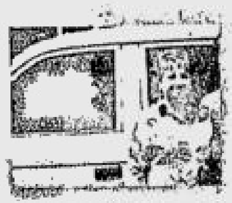
Marissa Catalico
2.0 Honda Civic A/T - February 2005

Corazon Orbeta
Ford Everest - November 2004

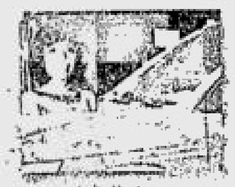
Catherine Ferrer
Mitsubishi Pajero GLS - October 2004


Merila Orozco
Ford Everest - October 2004

Rosellar Brianas
Ford Escape - September 2004


Grace Altamia
Mitsubishi Adventure GLX - August 2004

Lourdes Fernandez
Toyota Vios 1.5 A/T - August 2004


Lydia Manio
Isuzu Crosswind XUV - June 2004

Evangeline Ferrer
Nissan Urvan Escapade - July 2004

Lilibeth Ignado
Mitsubishi Adventure GLX - Nov. 2004

Estrella Almirante
Toyota REVO GLX - September 2003

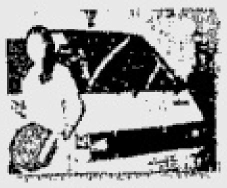
Terry Baylon
Nissan Sentra - July 2003

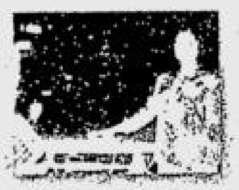
Chrisbi Orbase
Toyota Revo - Jan 2003

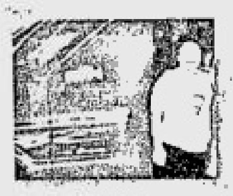
Jeanne Dalos Santos
2002 Honda Civic 1.5 CE - October 2002

Mercy Lita Aguilar
Toyota Revo DLX - June 2002

Brigida Nitafan
Mitsubishi L300 FB - June 2002

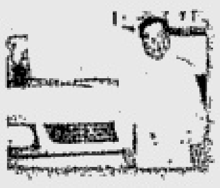

Aileen Gonzales
Mitsubishi L300 FB - May 2002


Aida Peraz
Isuzu Hi-Lander Crosswind - March 2002


Mamia Dallas
Isuzu Hi-Lander Crosswind - March 2002

Mildred Barraga
Isuzu Hi-Lander - September 2001

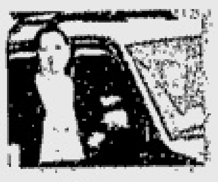
Mary Ann Agbones
Nissan Exalta - June 2001


Teodoro Caballero
Toyota Revo DLX - June 2001

Elsa Sollano
Toyota Revo GLX - June 2001

Perla Gramlo
Isuzu Hi-Lander - April 2001

Cesar Verastigue
Toyota Revo - February 2001

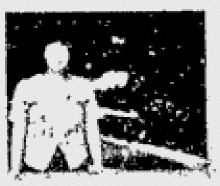

Nelia Lorenzo
Mitsubishi Adventure GLX - Feb. 2001

Lolita Lagdan
Mitsubishi Adventure Super Sport
February 2001

Domingo Garcia
Ford Expedition - February 2001

Aurora Marina De Leon
KIA Carnival - February 2001

Lucila Mapadan
Toyota Revo GLX - August 2000


Shirley Sabug
Toyota Revo Sports Runner - July 2000

Lorna Macapaz
Toyota Corolla LE - June 2000

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DIRECT SELLING ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES DSAP

JG Summit to spend P12B more

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

JG SUMMIT Holdings Inc., the flagship company of the Gokongwei group, has earmarked a budget of P10-P12 billion for projects lined up for the rest of the year.

JG Summit president Lance Gokongwei said that subsidiary Universal Robina Corp. (URC) would be putting up a beverage plant for its fast-growing green tea brand "C2" in Asia.

No additional details were given.

Gokongwei said, however, that the bulk of the budget or P8 billion would be allotted for its telecommunications arm, Digital Telecommunications Phils. Inc. (Digitel).

The balance will be distributed between consumer brand unit URC and property firm Robinsons Land Corp.

Property arm RLC is currently building residential condominiums, such as The Gateway Residences and The Adriatico Residences.

It will also expand its malls.

Gokongwei also said that aside from the P10-P12 billion it would spend for the second half of the year, JG Summit would spend roughly $500 million to beef up Cebu Pacific.

JG Summit recently reported a 24.2-percent growth in its net income to P1.71 billion in the first half this year from P1.38 billion in the same period last year.

In an unaudited report filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), JG Summit said consolidated revenues were up 8.4 percent to P32.36 billion, driven by the improvement in sales and revenues of the group's core businesses: Food and real estate development plus the contribution of its telecommunications business.

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PLDT promo to stay

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co. will make permanent its P10/call promo for national long distance calls within the network starting Sept. 21.

Butch Jimenez, PLDT's senior vice president and head of retail, said the company would charge a minimal administration and handling fee of P20 a month for those willing to subscribe to the P10/call rate.

"With this permanent plan, subscribers can continue to make cheaper unlimited NDD calls without having to worry about incurring huge phone bills," said Jimenez.

The promo, which started on Feb. 14, helped revive consumer interest in fixed-line service. PLDT's P10/call rate will be initially available within its network of two million customers.

"PLDT's permanent NDD plan may soon include calls to other fixed line and mobile phone carriers," said Jimenez.

The company's head of legal Rogelio Quevedo said the P10/call rate can be made available to competitors once they agree to cut the fees they charge to calls coming from PLDT.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of August 19, 2005)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	12,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	33.5	33.5	33	33	718,800
Bank of the Phil. Islands	51	51.5	51	51	89,700
China Banking Corp.	840	840	840	840	100
Citystate Savings Bank	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	500
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.67	0.67	0.66	0.66	2,730,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	51.5	51.5	51.5	51.5	213,400
International Exch. Bank	19	19	19	19	80,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	28	28	27.5	28	1,311,600
Philippine National Bank	39.5	40.5	39.5	40	96,900
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	14	14	14	14	42,200
Security Bank Corp.	31.5	31.5	31	31.5	121,700
Union Bank of the Phil.	31	31	31	31	5,100
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	132,000
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1.02	1.02	1	1	8,930,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	750	750	725	730	51,930
Ipeople Inc.	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	50,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.045	200,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.0525	0.055	0.0525	0.055	1,200,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.15	3.15	3.1	3.15	352,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1625	1625	1610	1610	96,730
Ivantage Corp.	0.63	0.65	0.63	0.64	3,360,000
Philweb Corp.	0.016	0.017	0.016	0.017	8,200,000
POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES					
Manila Electric Co. A	14.75	14.75	14.75	14.75	43,800
Manila Electric Co. B	24.25	24.25	24.25	24.25	518,400
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.6	6.6	6.5	6.5	2,644,000
Petron Corp.	3.25	3.25	3.25	3.25	589,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	200,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	8.2	8.2	8.1	8.1	252,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc	0.64	0.64	0.62	0.62	110,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.1	1.14	1.1	1.14	2,008,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	300,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	186,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Jollibee Foods Corp.	31.5	32	31.5	32	214,600
San Miguel Corp. A	68.5	68.5	68.5	68.5	137,500
San Miguel Corp. B	98	98	98	98	444,400
Universal Robina Corp.	16	16.75	16	16.75	133,300
Vitarich Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	200,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	310	312.5	307.5	310	91,670
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.56	0.56	0.53	0.53	720,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	4.95	4.95	4.95	4.95	38,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	9.9	9.9	9.9	9.9	3,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	1,700,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	10,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	76,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.66	0.67	0.64	0.64	1,070,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	10	10	10	10	20,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12	2,702,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.225	0.225	0.225	0.225	400,000
CADP Group Corp.	0.86	0.86	0.86	0.86	140,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	1,050,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3.05	3.1	3	3.1	2,037,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	1,400,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	2,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	8.1	8.1	7.9	7.9	1,454,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	44.5	44.5	44	44.5	166,300
Global Equities Inc.	0.0725	0.0725	0.0725	0.0725	100,000
House Of Investments Inc	0.96	0.96	0.96	0.96	60,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	3.45	3.45	3.35	3.35	3,978,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.74	1.74	1.74	1.74	12,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.38	1.38	2,953,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	16,820,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	40,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1	1	1	1	100,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.54	0.57	0.54	0.57	360,000
SM Investments Corp.	223	223	217	218	302,010
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.14	0.145	0.14	0.145	700,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	200,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	10,000
Euro-Med Lab. Phil. Inc.	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	51,000
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	50,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.93	0.94	0.93	0.93	6,650,000
Acesite Phils Hotel Corp.	8	8	6	6	4,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.75	0.75	0.74	0.74	100,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.42	1.44	1.4	1.4	1,774,000
Manila Jockey Club	3	3	3	3	120,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	240,000
Philippine Racing Club	3.5	3.5	3	3	13,196,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp (PDR)	13.5	13.75	13.25	13.5	796,500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series O	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series P	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	600
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Q	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series S	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT 10% Pref Series AA	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	5,600
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	7.4	7.4	7.4	7.4	32,000
Far Eastern University	515	515	515	515	890
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	8.3	8.3	8.2	8.3	4,194,000
Cityland Development Corp.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	104,000
Cebu Holdings Inc	0.93	0.93	0.92	0.92	130,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	150,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	640,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.36	0.37	0.36	0.36	2,380,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.38	1.4	1.38	1.38	5,465,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	20,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	4.05	4.05	4.05	4.05	10,000
Phil Realty And Holdings	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	10,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.4	7.4	7.3	7.4	1,791,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.88	0.88	0.88	0.88	120,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	0.91	0.91	0.91	0.91	10,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	32,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	5.7	5.8	5.5	5.6	635,000
Benguet Corp. A	8.1	8.1	7.5	7.5	37,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	2.08	2.08	2	2	145,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	1,930,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	7,930,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	2,600,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	330,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.93	0.93	0.92	0.92	760,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	27	28	26.5	28	817,900
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	680,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0075	0.0075	0.007	0.007	11,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0075	0.008	0.0075	0.008	80,000,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	3.55	3.6	3.55	3.6	125,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	320,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.36	0.38	0.36	0.38	790,000

	SHARES	VALUE(P)
Bank & Fin Svc	5,554,000	87,949,230.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	168,081,730	515,914,625.00
PRO	14,894,000	56,943,400.00
Mining	47,994,900	31,278,590.00
OIL	92,235,000	1,486,350.00
GRAND TOTALS :	328,759,630	693,572,195.00

	AVERAGES	
Bank & Fin Svc	570.61	DOWN 3.17
Comm'l & Ind'l	3,114.98	DOWN 27.42
PRO	725.45	UP 4.53
Mining	2,687.52	DOWN 35.53
OIL	2.90	DOWN 0.05
SME	100.00	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	1,195.29	DOWN 8.91
Composite	1,966.33	DOWN 12.79

NO. OF ADVANCES: 13; NO. OF DECLINES: 46; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 56; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 115; NO. OF TRADES: 2,220

CURRENCIES

August 21, 2005 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.821085	1.000000	55.9180
Japan	Yen	0.007432	0.009051	0.5061
United Kingdom	Pound	1.473931	1.795100	100.3784
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.105682	0.128710	7.1972
Switzerland	Franc	0.646117	0.786906	44.0022
Canada	Dollar	0.673960	0.820816	45.8984
Singapore	Dollar	0.493174	0.600637	33.5864
Australia	Dollar	0.619173	0.754091	42.1673
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.178003	2.652590	148.3275
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.218944	0.266652	14.9106
Brunei	Dollar	0.491697	0.598838	33.4858
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000082	0.000100	0.0056
Thailand	Baht	0.019881	0.024213	1.3539
UAE	Dirham	0.223571	0.272287	15.2257
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.217900	68.1025
Argentina	Peso	0.283622	0.345423	19.3154
Brazil	Real	0.348065	0.423908	23.7041
Denmark	Kroner	0.134123	0.163348	9.1341
India	Rupee	0.018871	0.022983	1.2852
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.217910	0.265393	14.8402
Mexico	New Peso	0.076722	0.093440	5.2250
New Zealand	Dollar	0.571388	0.695894	38.9130
Norway	Kroner	0.125723	0.153118	8.5621
Pakistan	Rupee	0.013788	0.016793	0.9390
South Africa	Rand	0.125876	0.153304	8.5725
Korea	Won	0.000803	0.000978	0.0547
Sweden	Kroner	0.107295	0.130675	7.3071
Syria	Pound	0.015817	0.019264	1.0772
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025602	0.031181	1.7436
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000383	0.000466	0.0261

Office of the President
of the Philippines

Malacañan Palace
Manila

MESSAGE

My warmest greetings to the sponsors, delegates and participants to the *CCAP Call Center Conferrence and Expo 2005.*

The call center industry is, indeed, one of the brightest spots in our ecopnomy that has placed our country in global map for offshore outsourcing, and solidified our position as a leading service provider for the world. This sector has also created close to 100,000 jobs for our young, talented workers and generated some P2.6 billion in new investments last year alone. Other industries, including real estate, transportation, and retail, have also significantly benefited from call centers.

My Administration is fully commited to promote our country as a major player in offshore outsourcing and to provide incentives for new investments. The number one concern of call centers is the need for more proficient English-speaking graduates to fill the industry's great need for new workers. This effort requires the cooperation of the government, the call center industry, and the educational sector.

I urge you to continue improving the quality of your services so that they will be at par with world class standards. Let us continue working together for economic stability and sustainable growth.

More power and Mabuhay!

Gloria Arroyo
GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President
Republic of the Philippines

TEN-POINT AGENDA TO "BEAT THE ODDS" IN SIX YEARS UNDER THE ARROYO ADMINISTRATION

"BEAT THE ODDS" - this will be our battle cry and agenda for the next six years"

– President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo

What it stands for:

- *B - Balanced budget*
- *E - Education for all*
- *A - Automated elections*
- *T - Transport and digital infrastructure to connect the country*
- *T - Terminate the MILF and NPA conflicts*
- *H - Heal the wounds of EDSA*
- *E - Electricity and water for all barangays*
- *O - Opportunities for 10 million jobs*
- *D - Decongest Metro Manila*
- *DS - Develop Clark and Subic*

MESSAGE

My warmest greetings and congratulations to the organizers, sponsors, participants and guests of the Contact Center Association of the Philippines (CCAP) on the conduct of the *CCAP Call Center Conference and Expo 2005.* This event positively hints at the youthful energy and dynamism of the finest people in the call center industry.

Your sector undeniably suits our largely young population. You have opened opportunities to our fresh graduates and young professionals who have shown competence as agents, team leaders, supervisors, managers and senior executives. Your industry is unique in that you have developed world-class corporate executives and officers, many of whom are just in their thirties and forties.

The call center industry is a young industry, but it has grown in leaps and bounds in just a few years. Along with this growth comes challenges, and the main challenge being – strengthening our competitive edge in the global market for offshore outsourcing. To achieve this, we must further equip our young people with both the technical expertise, and language and communication skills to meet the ever-growing demands not just of corporate clients based in the United States, but also those based in Europe and Asia. The time has come to overtake emerging competitors, particularly China, Malaysia and Mexico.

In my capacity as chairman of the committee on science and technology, I challenge you to fortify our position in IT-enabled services as the offshore destination of choice. Fortunately for us, the Philippines is home to some of the world's best knowledge workers. Let us use that asset to our advantage to realize our collective bid to make our country the global hub for IT-enabled services.

This event meets the needs of the local contact center industry, both outsourced and in-house. Together, let us face head on the challenges and opportunities that await us in the future.

RAMON MAGSAYSAY, JR.
Senator
Republic of the Philippines

MESSAGE

There is no question the contact center industry remains the driving force for the country's ambition to be one of the world's leading providers of IT-enabled services. In our global economy, we are already at the forefront in business process outsourcing

The call center industry has already created tremendous economic value for the Philippines in terms of job creation and revenue generation. And it has created a domino effect for other industries as well, including real estate, retail, education, and transportation.

We in the industry remain committed to strengthening the country's position as the destination for contact center services, both for outsourcing and shared services.

The *Call Center Conference& Expo 2005* is a testament of this commitment. It is about time we tackle our major issues head on. As the industry is past its infancy stage, we need to work together to make us stronger. That is why the Business Processing Association of the Philippines wholeheartedly supports this event.

I congratulate the Contact Center Association of the Philippines for this momentous endeavor. I'am certain this will lead to even bigger and more successful events in the future!

BONG BORJA
Chairman
Business Processing Association of the Philippines (BPA/P)

MESSAGE

The call center industry in the Philippines is one of the primary sources of employment opportunities for tens of thousands of talented Filipinos. From just 1,500 seats five years ago, employing around 2,400 employees, the call center industry is expected to grow to 60,000 seats and 96,000 employees. And there is just no let up.

In fact, the need for more agents has never been more critical. With so many outsourced and in-house contact centers mushrooming not just in Metro Manila but in major cities nationwide, finding and keeping qualified agents, supervisors, and managers has been the number one challenge for the call center industry.

That is why the Contact Center Association of the Philippines (CCAP), together with DL Media Focus International, Inc., has embarked on this major event – the *Call Center Conference& Expo 2005* – to provide not just a job fair for thousands of job seekers but create a venue for industry players to tackle the number one issue facing us: the need for more qualified people.

It really is a unique and exciting event organized by the call centers themselves. I like to thank to all the participating call centers and our sponsors for their valuable support. I am sure the *Call Center Expo & Conference 2005* will be the definitive and must-attend event for the call center industry.

RAFFY DAVID
Director
Contact Center Association of the Philippines (CCAP)

CCAP
Contact Center Association of the Philippines

Call Center Conference & Expo 2005

1 Day to go!

CONFERENCE - EXHIBIT - JOB FAIR

August 23 and 24, 2005 • EDSA Shangri-La Hotel

Welcome Remarks: **Bong Borja,** CCAP Director
Keynote Speaker: **Senator Ramon Magsaysay Jr.**

8:00 - 9:00 Opening Ceremony & Registration
9:00 - 5:00 Conference
9:00 - 7:00 Job Fair / Exhibit

•CONFERENCE TRACKS•

MANAGEMENT / OPERATIONS TRACK
AUGUST 23, 2005 - TUESDAY

- CRM in call centers: Maximizing CRM data
  Speaker: ERNEST CUSTODIO
  CRM Consultant
- Contact center trends: What are the new drivers impacting contact centers?
  Speaker: BILL DURR
  Principal Solutions Consultant,
  Witness Systems, Inc.
- Telephone marketing: Back to basics
  Speaker: BUTCH VILLAMOR
  President, One Outsource Direct
- CENTSibility: The key to a profitable center
  Speaker: ANNIE REYES-PINEDA
  General Manager, PacificHub

PEOPLE / HR TRACK

- Attracting great talent in a hyper-competitive job market
  Speaker: YU MING CHIN
  Executive Director, Viventis Search
- Safety and security of call center agents
  Speaker: CESAR TOLENTINO
  Senior Analyst and Telecommunications Practice Lead,
  XMG Asia Pacific
- HR Outsourcing: Reshaping the HR function
  Speaker: NERISSA REYES
  President, ASIA Partnership Philippines
- Effective training for agents and supervisors
  Speaker: OFEL MONTALLANA-ORCALES
  Director for Training, TeleDevelopment Services

PEOPLE / HR TRACK

- Implementing ITIL and getting certified to improve your competitive edge
  Speaker: KARL DAVID VERHULST
  Product Marketing Director,
  Computer Associates International
- Backup and archival innovations for call centers
  Speaker: AJAZ MUNSIFF
  Product Marketing Director, EMC South Asia
- Leveraging on multi-channel contact center solutions to improve customer service
  Speaker: ONG BOON LEONG
  Regional CRM Sales Manager, Avaya
- Call Center Implementation Solution for Operational Efficiency
  Speaker: Patrick Castillo - Parungao
  Managing Consultant - CRM Capability Leader
  Head Strong Phils.

AUGUST 24, 2005 - WEDNESDAY

PLENARY: Industry Update Bong Borja, CCAP Director
PLENARY CCAP Update Raffy David, CCAP Director

- Managing high performance organizations
  Speaker: BENEDICT HERNANDEZ
  Vice President for Operations,
  eTelecare International
- How call centers make life easier for Filipinos
  Speaker: RAFFY DAVID
  Director, Pilipinas Teleserv
- Workforce management through effective forecasting
  Speaker: JENNIFER BREMER
  Vice President for Operations, ICT Marketing Group
- COPC, ISO 9001, and Six Sigma: Understanding fundamentals and peculiarities
  Speaker/ Panel Moderator: REY NAPAY
  Vice President for Quality, AMA Education System Holdings

- Principle-centered change: Making it work for call centers
  Speaker: KAREN DELA CRUZ
  Facilitator, Center for Leadership and Change
- Challenges and opportunities of the HR profession in the call center industry
  Speaker: PHIL HIDALGO
  Vice President of HR for North Asia, Teletech
- Developing a positive work culture to drive performance
  Speaker: NATHAN SHAPIRO
  Country Manager, TeleDevelopment Services
- Developing a culture of personal excellence
  Speaker: FRANCIS KONG
  President, Business Matters Values Foundation

- From workforce management to workforce productivity /Moving from hours and minutes to pesos and centavos
  Speaker: PETER FOSKETT
  Senior Manager-Sales Engineering APAC
  Aspect Communications
- Building and optimizing a state-of-the-art call center
  Speaker: STEVE JAGANNATHAN
  Services Head, Avaya Global Services
- Voice communications today, tomorrow and beyond
  Speaker: VENANCIO CHAN
  President, Centrovox
- An innovative approach to contact center monitoring and recording
  Speaker: THOMAS HO
  Chief Executive Officer, USD (Asia Pacific) Limited

CCAP Members

Get Ready to Take the CCAP English Skills Challenge at the Job Fair

Advance Contact Solutions, Alorica, ambergris solutions, CLIENTLOGIC, Convergys, e-PERFORMAX, EPIXTAR, ICT, Ocon, INFOAXX, Pilipinas Teleserv Inc, Interaction, SITEL, SYKES, VXI

Co-presentors

AVAYA
FIVE9 PHILIPPINES, INC
WITNESS SYSTEMS

Wi-Fi Zone by innOve Communications

Exhibit entrance is FREE and open to the public

Organized by:

MEDIA FOCUS International Inc.

Gold Sponsors:

ASPECT, Computer Associates, EMC² where information lives, PLDT Business Solutions, NCO Group, VIVENTIS, USD Unlimited Solution Device

Silver Sponsors:

ANNEX, Bank of the Philippine Islands, GN Netcom, innOve Communications, Nestlé FoodServices, PEOPLESUPPORT, Philippine Vending Corporation, Pilipinas, vInc, PLANTRONICS, TeleDevelopment

Other Sponsors:

Bausch & Lomb, CDC, CHASE Technologies, Inc., EconomiCall, talchemy, PLDT VENTUS, UBX COLOR COPIERS, daksh

Media Partners:

INQUIRER, DZRH

Supported by:

BPA/P Business Processing Association PHILIPPINES

Web Designer:

mediagroup

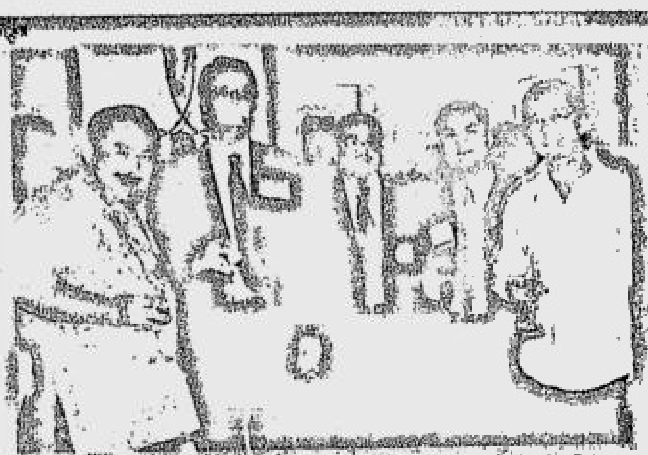
Web Developer:

Imperium

On-line Partners:

INQ7.net, JobsDB.com, trabaho.com, yahoo!

OMD's Tony Samson and PLDT's Tony Valdez



[illegible] Gil Chua, Mike Cooper, [illegible] Raymond de Vera and SMART's Boy Martinez

[illegible] SMART's Ricky Isla [illegible] with BBDO's Susan Dimacali and Philippine Star's [illegible]

OMD's Florence Oong, Aimee Rivera and Jim Goh engage in a stimulating conversation

OMD Enters the Media Landscape with a Bang

GMA's [illegible] and OMD's [illegible] media men Donald Lim, Rafael [illegible] from the PDI

They say fortune favors the brave. That is probably why world-renowned media specialist OMD enjoys an abundance of luck. Standing on the shoulders of Insights, Ideas and Results, global media behemoth OMD dares to change the Philippine media landscape as it opens its new Manila office.

OMD, Asia Pacific's most awarded media agency marks its auspicious beginning with a successful launch held recently at the Rockwell Club's plush Palm Grove. Guests partied well into the night with charming Oriental fanfare. Amid girls in elegant red satin cheongsams and cocktail tables with bowls bearing five goldfish, they enjoyed a slew of Chinese-inspired activities courtesy of OMD's media friends. There were GMA7's martial arts demonstrations by the Shaolin Hung Fut Kung Fu troupe, ABS-CBN's Chinese Mime Dance, RMN's mysterious smoke reading, MBC's numerology consultation and Bombo Radyo's fortune cookie booth.

Guests also queued for the calligraphy and fortunetelling sessions from top publications Manila Bulletin, Philippine Daily Inquirer and Philippine Star.

The crimson affair saw OMD Philippines Chairman Gil Chua, President & CEO Antonio Samson, Executive VP & COO Ador Perez and the rest of OMD enjoying the company of its valuable clientele and friends in the industry. OMD's top brass execs like CEO Asia Pacific Mike Cooper, CFO Asia Pacific David Devonshire, Regional Managing Director for Southeast Asia Jim Goh and OMD Asia Director for Communication Insights Ms. Florence Oong flew in to personally extend their congratulations.

SMART's Head of Personal Communications and Mobile Services Boy Martinez dropped by with Corporate Business Group Head Julie Carceller and Product Marketing Head Ricky Isla to share in OMD's triumphant launch. Fellow telecom giant PLDT also came in full force with Retail Business Group VP Tony Valdez leading a mighty pack which includes AVP Marketing Services Raul Alvarez, AVP Retail Acquisitions Patrick Tang, AVP Long Distance Retail Marketing Gary Dujali, AVP Retail Marketing Card Services Cristina Balingit, Senior Product Manager Retail Data Services Marc Concio and Senior Media Manager Dodie Lucas.

OMD's Claire Valdez (left) and Alec Pang (extreme right) with Pharex [illegible] Beau Agana (third from left) and Pascual Laboratories' Jenny Belen, Obet Bautista [illegible]

[illegible] Dehlia Muñoz, OMD's [illegible] and DDB's Chewy Chua

Say these
& I'll move
.OMD
Ideas
Insights
Results

[illegible]

Lucky break: Jim Goh, Ador Perez, Tony Samson, Richard Proctor, Mike Cooper and Gil Chua eagerly crack open their fortune cookies

More well wishers flooded the OMD bash to celebrate the global giant's local presence most notably Veritas' bigwigs President Fr. Anton Pascual, VP Marketing Lory Dino and VP Programming Mario Garcia, Hershey's head honcho Jerry Santiago, Solar Entertainment's big boss Wilson Tieng, RoadRunner's lead man Dodie Lucas, Mediawise's MD Hermie de Leon, mega-distributor Sysu's Jennifer Sy, Pascual Laboratories' very own Obet Bautista, Henkel's Raymond Antonio, M. Lhuillier's Junji Escaño, Columbian Autocar Corporation's Chit Velasquez, Dermclinic's Jenine Lloren and VBP Group of Companies' Rochelle Jara among other clients.

Veering away from the traditional wine toast, OMD and guests turn to the fates by breaking open fortune cookies. It's no surprise that OMD's fortune reads luck and prosperity. With its audacious and opportune entry into Philippine media, they merely affirm the inevitable.

Future reference: OMD's Mike Cooper searches for good fortune

DDB's Roger Torres, Julie de Joya and Richard Proctor with OMD's Florence Oong, David Devonshire and Jim Goh

[illegible]

PLDT's Dodie Lucas [illegible] with OMD's [illegible] and Ador Perez

Mike Cooper, Lito de Joya, Tony Samson, David Devonshire, Gil Chua and Jim Goh find pleasure in business at the OMD bash

DDB's Manny Gutierrez chills with PLDT's Tina Balingit, Patrick Tang, Tony Valdez, Marc Concio and Raul Alvarez

OMD's Tony Samson and PLDT's Tony Valdez

Industry heavyweights Gil Chua, Mike Cooper, Raymond de Vera and SMART's Boy Martinez

Families from SMART's Ricky Isla and [illegible] Carceller with BBDO's Susan Dimacali and Philippine Star's [illegible]

OMD's Florence Gong, Aimee Rivera and Jim Goh engage in a stimulating conversation

OMD Enters the Media Landscape with a Bang

GMA's [illegible] and OMD's Raymond de Vera hang out with fellow [illegible] from the [illegible]

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OMD's [illegible] (left) and [illegible] (center) [illegible] Agana (third from left) and Pascual Laboratories' [illegible] Obet Bautista, [illegible] and [illegible]

[illegible]

Say these
& I'll move
OMD
Ideas
Insights
Results
[illegible]

Lucky break: Jim Goh, Ador Perez, Tony Samson, Richard Proctor, Mike Cooper and Gil Chua eagerly crack open their fortune cookies

More well wishers flooded the OMD bash to celebrate the global giant's local presence, most notably Veritas' bigwigs President Fr. Anton Pascual, VP Marketing Lory Dino and VP Programming Mario Garcia, Hershey's head honcho Jerry Santiago, Solar Entertainment's big boss Wilson Tieng, RoadRunner's lead man Dodie Lucas, Mediavise's MD Hermie de Leon, mega-distributor Sysu's Jennifer Sy, Pascual Laboratories' very own Obet Bautista, Henkel's Raymond Antonio, M. Lhuillier's Jun Escario, Columbian Autocar Corporation's Chut Velasquez, Dermclinic's Janine Llorera and VBP Group of Companies' Rochelle Vara among other clients.

Veering away from the traditional wine toast, OMD and guests turn to the fates by breaking open fortune cookies. It's no surprise that OMD's fortune reads luck and prosperity. With its audacious and opportune entry into Philippine media, they merely affirm the inevitable.

Future reference: OMD's Mike Cooper searches for good fortune

DDB's Roger Torres, Julie de Joya and Richard Proctor with OMD's Florence Gong, David Devonshire and Jim Goh

[illegible] with [illegible] Sedismundo

[illegible]

Mike Cooper, Lito de Joya, Tony Samson, David Devonshire, Gil Chua and Jim Goh find pleasure in business at the OMD bash

DDB's Manny Gutierrez chills with PLDT's Tina Balingit, Patrick Teng, Tony Valdez, Marc Concio and Raul Alvarez

[illegible]

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DAVAO CITY WATER DISTRICT
J.P. Laurel Ave., Davao City
Tel.# 221-9400

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

1. The *Davao City Water District*, with the *Approved Budget for 2005* intends to apply the sum of *One Million Three Hundred Fifty Seven Thousand Pesos* (P1,357,000.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for *Various Fittings and Gate Valve Bids* received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The *Davao City Water District* now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for

Lot/Package No. 1 (Various C.I Fittings): ABC: Php 998,500.00
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Delivery of the GOODS is required by *December 15, 2005*. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (R.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from *Davao City Water District* and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. up to 5:00 p.m.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of non refundable fee in the amount of *P 1,500/package*. The method of payment will be on Cash Basis. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. The *Davao City Water District* will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on *September 15, 2005 at 9:00 o'clock A.M. at DCWD BAC-A Secretariat Office, J.P. Laurel Ave., Bajada, Davao City.*
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before *September 29, 2005 at 9:00 o'clock A.M.* Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of cash or Manager's check and in the amount of *P 9,985.00 for LOT/PACKAGE I* and *P 3,585.00 for LOT/PACKAGE II*. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
8. Bid opening shall be on *September 29, 2005 at 9:00 o'clock A.M. at DCWD BAC-A Secretariat Office, J.P. Laurel Ave., Bajada, Davao City*. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representative who choose to attend at the address below.
9. The *Davao City Water District* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Davao City Water District
BAC-A
J.P. Laurel Ave., Bajada Davao City
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dcwd@water.gov.ph
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Plant Equipment, Components, Auxiliaries and Accessories of the Bataan Thermal Plant located at Limay, Bataan

(the "*Asset*"). The Asset is being sold on an "*as is where is*" basis.

Interested parties are required to submit a Letter of Interest ("*LOI*") to PSALM which shall state the full name, address, telephone and fax number of the interested party, name of the principal contact, signed by an authorized representative, and with the latest audited financial statement attached to the submission. All LOIs must be received by PSALM at the PSALM Office, 2nd Floor, SGV II Building, Ayala Avenue, Makati City, not later than 5:00 p.m. on August 30, 2005 (the "*LOI Submission Deadline*"). Only interested parties that submit an LOI by the LOI Submission Deadline shall be allowed to participate further in the privatization of the Asset.

As a prerequisite to the receipt of the Bidding Package, interested parties shall execute a Confidentiality Agreement and an Undertaking pursuant to Section 78 of RA 9136, in the forms provided by PSALM, and pay a non-refundable fee in the amount of Five Hundred U.S. Dollars (U.S. $ 500.00) (the "*Participation Fee*"). The Participation Fee shall either be in cash, manager's check or cashier's check. All bank charges, if any, shall be for the account of the interested party. The Confidentiality Agreement, Undertaking and Participation Fee must be received by PSALM on or before 5:00 p.m. of August 31, 2005 to entitle an interested party further participation in the privatization of the Asset.

The Bidding Package, which includes the bidding procedures, shall be issued during office hours (9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) from August 22, 2005 until August 31, 2005 at 5:00 p.m. (the "*Deadline*") at the PSALM Office. In accordance with the bidding procedures, only interested parties who have been issued the Bidding Package by the Deadline or a consortium which includes an interested party will be allowed to participate further in the privatization of the Asset.

The schedule of the bidding activities shall be as follows:

Due Diligence	August 26 – September 28, 2005
Pre-bid Conference	September 5, 2005, 10:00 a.m. at the PSALM Office
Deadline for Receipt of Bids by PSALM	September 30, 2005, 12:00 p.m. at the PSALM Office

References to dates and times shall be based on Manila time. Should any of the above dates fall on a holiday, the deadline shall be extended to the same time of the immediately succeeding business day in Makati City.

Interested parties will be required to post a bid security in the form of an irrevocable standby letter of credit. The details of the bid security, including the amount are contained in the bidding procedures. The winning bidder must substitute its bid security with a performance security to guarantee prompt, faithful and complete performance of its obligations under the transaction. A two-envelope bidding system will be adopted. Other details on the privatization of the Asset are contained in the Bidding Package.

Letters of Interest, Confidentiality Agreements and Undertakings shall be addressed and submitted to: The Chairman, Privatization, Bids and Awards Committee, PSALM Corporation, 2nd Floor, SGV II Building, Ayala Avenue, Makati City, Philippines. Inquiries and clarifications shall be addressed to Mr. Froilan A. Tampinco at the PSALM Office or at telephone number (632) 893-8202 loc. 202 or 206, telefax number (632) 840-3896 or e-mail address fatampinco@psalm.gov.ph.

The Committee reserves the right to accept or reject any interested party or bidder or proposals or bids therefrom, or any part thereof, and/or to waive any defects contained therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the Government, without offering any reason whatsoever. It does not assume any obligation to compensate or indemnify parties for any expense or loss that they may incur as a result of their participation in the privatization process, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made. Finally, it reserves the right to modify, supplement, or change the Bidding Procedures and other aspects of the privatization process at any time, including the schedule and the venue provided herein, for any reason whatsoever and without giving prior notice. Interested parties and/or bidders will be notified subsequently of such modifications, supplements, or changes.

(Sgd.) Raphael Perpetuo M. Lotilla
PSALM Privatization, Bids and Awards Committee
(PDI--August 22, 23 and 24, 2005)

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For further information please contact Maggie Calderon-Alicante at
Tel: 852 2910 loc. 111 Email: mags.calderon@henrybutcher.com

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CDC

Clark Development Corporation
Republic of the Philippines

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

"PRIVATIZATION OF THE FORMER MIMOSA RESORT ESTATE"
Clark Special Economic Zone, Pampanga

The Clark Development Corporation now invites investors to participate in the bidding for the privatization of the former Mimosa Resort Estate and operate the existing facilities thereat.

The tender documents will be issued to the prospective bidder upon submission of their Letter of Intent and payment of a non-refundable fee of FIFTY THOUSAND PESOS (Php50,000.00) in the form of a cash or manager's check.

The bidding will be governed by the following schedules:

Issuance of Tender Documents and Submission of Letter of Intent	September 5, 2005 until November 3, 2005 (9am to 4 pm)
Submission of Eligibility Documents	Up to November 10, 2005 (9am to 4 pm)

Interested parties may secure the tender documents and submit their Letters-of-Intent (LOI) at the Bids and Awards Secretariat, Second Floor Bldg. 2127. C.P. Garcia Street corner E. Quirino Ave., CSEZ, Pampanga.

Only those who are found eligible shall be notified of the schedule of Pre-offer Conference and the Submission and Opening of Offers thru the issuance of bid bulletins.

CDC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all applications or offers without offering any reason, and to annul the bidding process and reject all offers at any time prior to contract award without incurring any liability to the affected proponent; to waive any formality, informality and/or defect and to make an award to the proponent whose proposal is most advantageous to the government. CDC does not guarantee that an award will be made.

All letters and inquiries shall be addressed to:

VICTOR JOSE I. LUCIANO, CHAIRMAN
SPECIAL BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
c/o Bids and Awards Secretariat
Clark Development Corporation
Bldg. 2127 C.P. Garcia St. corner E. Quirino Ave.,
Clark Special Economic Zone, Pampanga
Telefax (045) 599-7028
Email: bacsecretariat@clark.com.ph

(Sgd.) VICTOR JOSE I. LUCIANO
SBAC Chairman

(PDI-August 22, 2005)

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1.5% Easy Carloan 7815352/55

1.5% w/oTaking Car 7228942-43

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

1Hour Car Loan 9153460
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2% w/o Taking Car 7262780

2% w/o taking car 7860183-84

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 3732081/82

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PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that estate of the late SPS. ANGELES and PRESENTACION LACSAMANA has been extrajudicially settled by their heirs as Per Doc #155 Page #20,Book XXII Series of 2005 of Notary Public Rose Mary M. Austria
(PDI- Aug. 22, 29 & Sept 5,2005)

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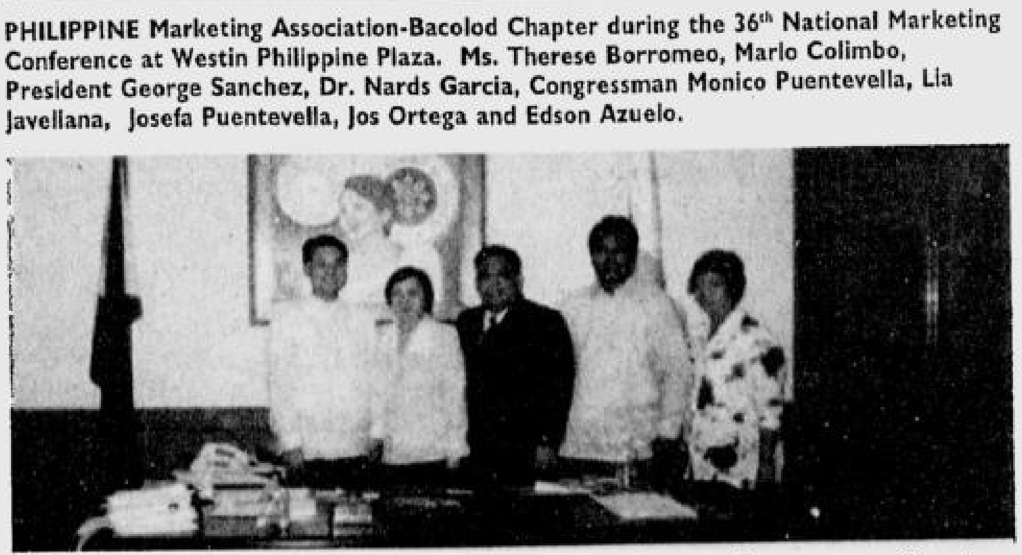
SECRETARY M/F 953-1336

BACOLOD GATEWAY TO NEGROS - CO HOST SEAGAMES

PHILIPPINE Marketing Association-Bacolod Chapter during the 36th National Marketing Conference at Westin Philippine Plaza. Ms. Therese Borromeo, Marlo Colimbo, President George Sanchez, Dr. Nards Garcia, Congressman Monico Puentevella, Lia Javellana, Josefa Puentevella, Jos Ortega and Edson Azuelo.



PMA-Bacolod visits Durano, May 25. Secretary Joseph Durano, Department of Tourism, Josefa Puentevella, Edson Azuelo, Marlo Colimbo and May Jaboneta.

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"For God
so loved
the World,
that He
gave us
His only
begotten
Son, that
whoever
believes
in Him
shall not
perish but
have
Everlasting life."
—John 3:16

Our Dearly Beloved

DR. MARCELINO Y. BLANCO

(January 26, 1925 – August 4, 2005)

**of Manila, Philippines and
Reno, Nevada, USA**

*Peacefully joined our Lord
at the age of 80.*

His loving wife **Narcisa**, children **Georgino**, **Marcelino Jr.**, **Dolora** and **Arnel**, brothers and sisters, grandchildren and great grandchildren, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at
Nacional Memorial Homes.

Interment will be on August 27, 2005 at
Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina after the
8:00 a.m. Mass.

**ROMULO MABANTA BUENAVENTURA
SAYOC & DE LOS ANGELES**

Announces with great sorrow the passing away of its Senior Partner

ROMAN MABANTA, JR.

May 23, 1925 – August 19, 2005

His remains lie in state at the Santa Maria della Strada Parish Church,
Katipunan Avenue, Loyola Heights, Quezon City

Daily Masses will be offered at 7:30 p.m.

Interment will be on Wednesday, August 24, 2005,
at the crypt of Christ the King Parish, Green Meadows after the
9:00 a.m. Mass at Santa Maria della Strada Parish Church

In lie of flowers his family requests donations to
Our Lady of Pentecost Parish

---

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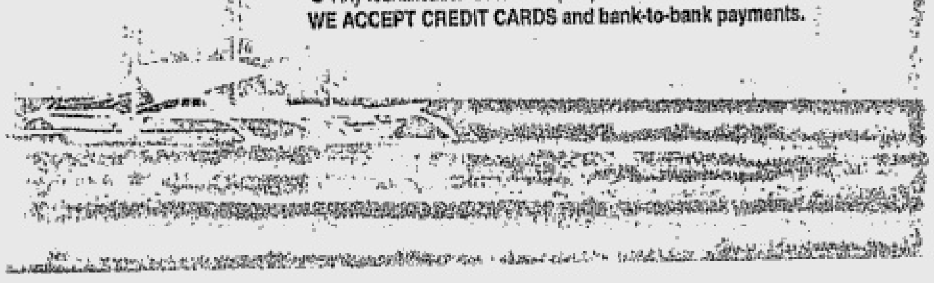

Virgilio B. Advincula

Retiree of United Laboratories, Inc.

Peacefully joined his Creator
on August 19, 2005 at the age of 62.
His body lies in state at Nacional
Memorial Homes, Araneta Ave., QC.

Cremation will be on August 24
at the La Funeraria Paz, QC
at 12:00 noon.

CLASSIFIEDS

Republika ng Pilipinas
Republic of the Philippines
Kagawaran ng Tanggulang Pambansa
Department of National Defense

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBLITY AND TO BID

[Re-bidding for the PKM (In-country) Upgrade Project]

1. The Department of National Defense (Armend Forces of the Philippines), through the General Appropriation Act and the AFP Modernizaiton Program Act Trust Fund, intends to apply the sum of *TWO HUNDRED EIGHTY EIGHT MILLION PESOS (Php288,000,000.00)* being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the **Upgrade of Two (2) Patrol Killer Medium (PKM) Wildcat Gunboats** of the Philippine Navy. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

2. The DND/AFP now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the **UPGRADE OF TWO (2) PATROL KILLER MEDIUM (PKM) WILDCATS GUNBOATS** of the Philippine Navy. The expected contract duration is 240 CALENDAR DAYS. The description of an elibigible Bidder is contained in *Section II* of the Bidding Documents. ITB.

3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the *Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act No.9184 (R.A. 9184)*, otherwise known as the *"Government Procurement Reform Act,"* and is open to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to *Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183)* and subject to *Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138)*. Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in *Section II* of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the *Lowest Calculated Bid* (LCB) shall advance to the *Post-Qualification Stage* in order to finally determine responsivess of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the *Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder* (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualificaiton procedure.

4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the *DND Bids and Awards Committee* (BAC) *Secretariat* and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address specified below from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Interested Bidders from the address below starting **August 22, 2005** upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of *Thirty Thousand Pesos (Php30,000.00)* in cash or thru cashier's check. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

6. The *DND/AFP* will hold a **Pre-Bid Conference** open to all interested parties on ***September 22, 2005 at 2:00 p.m.** at the Silid Panday Pira, 1st Floor, Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City.*

7. **Bids and eligibility requirements must be submitted** to the address below on or before ***9:00 a.m of October 6, 2005.*** All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in any of the forms and corresponding amount allowed under RA 9184 and its IRR-A. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

8. **Bids opening shall be on October 6, 2005 at 9;00 a.m.** Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representatives who chhose to attend at *Silid Panday Pira, 1st Floor, Bulwagang Mabin, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City.*

9. To facilitate eligiblity checking, manufacturers and/or prospective bidders who wish to participate in the public bidding may apply for registration with the DND BAC, through the DND BAC Secretariat, at least fifteen (15) days before the scheduled submission and opening of bids for the procurement of the projects they wish to participate in. pursuant to DND BAC Cir. 01-2005 (download availabe at the website specified below) did 12 May 2005.

10. The DND/AFP resrves the right of accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

**DND BAC Secretariat
Armed Forces of the Philippines
Mondernization Program Management Office**
3/F Bulswang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo
Quezon City, Philippines 1110
Tel. No: (632) 911-6001 local 6481
Telefax No. (632) 912-9541 / 421-2327
Email: pid@info.com.ph
Website: www.info.com.ph/~aipmod

(Sgd.) **UNDERSECRETARY JOSE F. SANTOS**
Chairman, DND-BAC

(PDI- August 22 & 29, 2005)

DAVAO CITY WATER DISTRICT
J.P. Laurel Ave., Bajada Davao City
Tel.# 221-9400

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

1. The *Davao City Water District*, with the *Approved Budget for 2005* intends to apply the sum of *Thirteen Million One Hundred Twenty Five Thousand Pesos (P13,125,000.00)* being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for *1/2" Water Meter.* Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The *Davao City Water District* now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for:

ABC: Php 13,125,000.00

a) 10,500 pcs. - 1/2" (15mm) Q-Water Meter

Delivery of the GOODS is required by *December 15, 2005*. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations. Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (R.A 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from *Davao City Water District* and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. up to 5:00 p.m.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of non refundable fee in the amount of *P 1,500/package*. The method of payment will be on Cash Basis. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative
6. The *Davao City Water District* will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on ***September 12, 2005 at 9:00 o'clock A.M.** at DWCD BAC-A Secretariat Office, J.P. Laurel Ave., Bajada, Davao City.*
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before ***September 26, 2005 at 9:00 o'clock A.M*** All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of *cash* or *Manager's check* and in the amount of *P 131,250.00*. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
8. Bid opening shall be on ***September 26, 2005 at 9:00 o'clock A.M.** at DCWD BAC-A Secretariat Office, J.P. Laurel Ave., Bajada, Davao City*. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representative who choose to attend at the address below.
9. The *Davao City Water District* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Davao City Water District
BAC-A
J P Laurel Ave., Bajada Davao City
221-9400 (8000)
dcwd@water.gov.ph
224-5392
www.davao-water.gov.ph

(SGD.) ALFONSO E. LAID
BAC-A Chairman

(PDI--Aug. 15 & 22, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
BAGUIO GENERAL HOSPITAL & MEDICAL CENTER
Baguio City
PhilHealth Accredited
Tel. # (074) 442-3809
Telefax : (074) 442-4216 loc. 202

INVITATION TO BID

The Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center invites all DOH-Manila accredited suppliers for Drugs and Medicines, Hospital Medical, Dental, Surgical, Laboratory, X-Ray, reagents and supplies to bid for the same at the COBALT building, BGHMC Auditorium, Baguio City.

A Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on September 5, 2005 Monday, 2:00 PM at the same venue for clarifications. Opening of Bids is scheduled on September 15, 2005 Thursday at exactly 2:00 PM at the same venue. Late Bidders shall be disqualified.

Instruction to Bidders (BAC FORM A) and Official Bid Tender Form (BAC FORM B) can be availed of from August 25, 2005 to September 14, 2005, from 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM at the office of the Chief Medical Professional Staff c/o **Mrs. Ma. TERESA C. FAJARDO**, after payment in cash of P700.00 at the cashier's office.

The BAC shall award the contract to suppliers with the lowest qualifying bids. The BGHMC reserves the right to waive any minor deviations in the bid tender documents which do not affect the substance and validity of the bids and reserves the right to accept the bid most advantageous to the government.

Request or appeals for consideration will be entertained within (7) working days from posting of the winning bidders and may be submitted to the BAC Secretariat **Ms. MA. TERESA C. FAJARDO**, BGHMC, for BAC review.

Approved Budget Ceiling (ABC) for Drugs & Medicines is P36 Million and Laboratory, Medical, Surgical, Dental, X-Ray Supplies P64 Million. Source of funding is GOP. Contract duration is from January 1, 2006 – December 31, 2006.

For inquiries you may call BAC Secretariat c/o **Ms. MA. TERESA C. FAJARDO** at 442-42-16 loc. 226 and/or loc. 252.

(Sgd.) **MANUEL V. FACTORA**, MD., MHA, CSEE
Medical Center Chief BGHMC

(PDI--Aug. 14 & 22, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
SOCIAL SECURITY COMMISSION
Makati City

NENA BONGUIT SOLIS
Petitioner
-versus- **SSC CASE NO. 6-15928-05**
**ANGELITA GARCIA-BOHOL and
SOCIAL SERUCITY SYSTEM,**
Respondents.
x---x

SUMMONS

TO: ANGELITA GARCIA-BOHOL

GREETINGS:

You are hereby required to file within fifteen (15) days from the date of publication of this Summons with the Office of the Clerk of the Commission, 12th Floor, SSS (Makati) Building, 6782 Ayala Avenue corner Rufino Street, Makati City, your answer to the petition for entitlement to the benefit accruing from the death of SSS member Juan Escalante Solis (SS No. 03-5237371-5).

You are further required to serve a copy of your answer upon the petitioner, Nena Bonguit Solis with address located at 236 Metropolitan Avenue, Makati City, and upon the SSS thru the Senior Vice President, Legal and Collection, SSS, Quezon City.

If you fail to answer within the time prescribed above, the Hearing Commissioner, may upon motion of the petitioner or *motu-proprio*, declare you in default and shall forthwith proceed to receive the petitioner's evidence ex-parte and thereafter recommend to the Commission either the granting or denial of the petition as the evidence may warrant.

SO ORDERD
Makati City, Philippines, August 12, 2005.

SOCIAL SECURITY COMMISSION

NFA apprehends erring rice traders

AT LEAST 26 rice traders found violating the rules and regulations set by the Philippine Grains Standardization Program (PGSP) were apprehended by the monitoring teams of the National Food Authority from April 6 to date. Of this number, 13 were violations on rice diversion as reported by the NFA's Enforcement, Investigation and Prosecution Department (EIPD). Other violations reported were unauthorized possession of rice, 2; overpricing of NFA rice, 1; no NFA license, 8; non-display of NFA license, 1; and rice boxes not painted white, 1. The NFA regularly deploys its personnel under the agency's Palengke Watch program to monitor any irregularities in the selling of government rice both in minor and major public markets nationwide. Violators will be meted with corresponding penalties, including cancellation of their permits to operate. NFA rice comes in regular-milled and well-milled varieties and is sold at P16 and P18 per kilogram, respectively. It is available through the agency's 2,493 outlets of Bigasan ni Gloria sa Palengke (BGP), 269 units of Tindahan ni Gloria rolling stores, and 26,112 rice outlets inside and outlets public markets accredited by the NFA. For information on NFA programs, the public may use the Text NFA program by sending inquiries, complaints and suggestions through mobile number 0917-6210927. For information on programs of the Department of Agriculture, please visit the DA's official website at www.da.gov.ph.

BUSINESS

Mine sector draws $18.5M in investment

By Christine A. Gaylican

EFFORTS of the government and private sector to revitalize the country's mining industry has generated $18.55 million in new investments and created more than 2,200 new jobs in the last six months, according to the Mines and Geosciences Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Based on a report from the Mines Bureau, the new investments were from mining projects that have begun operations: the Palawan Nickel Project of Coral Bay Mining Corp., the Rapu-rapu Project of Lafayette Philippines Inc., the Canatuan Gold Project of TVI Resources Development Phils. Inc., and the Teresa Gold Project of Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co.

The Akle Cement Project of Eagle Cement Corp., which is still in the construction and development phase, brought in $14.7 million, while the Masbate Gold Project of Filminera Resources Corp. generated $11.6 million.

The current figures are expected to jump with the commencement of two other mining operations: the $19-million Adlay-Cagdianao-Tandawa (ACT) Project of Surigao Integrated Resources Co. and the Sto. Thomas II Copper Expansion Project of Philex Mining Corp.

Surigao Integrated will start operations in September, while Philex Mining Corp. hopes to open in the first quarter of next year.

Atlas Consolidated Mining and Development Corp., through Carmen Copper Corp. (CCC), is finalizing the financial arrangements for the reopening of the $171-million Toledo Copper mine in Cebu.

Rehabilitation of the Toledo project, which used to be Asia's biggest copper mine, is scheduled to start within the year.

CCC has already filed an application to be listed with the Philippine Stock Exchange.

Large bank bailouts seen to hurt PDIC

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BAILOUT programs for distressed banks—particularly those that required the government to purchase the bank's assets and assume its liabilities—are threatening the coffers of the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp., according to the Commission on Audit.

"PDIC's coffers are, and will be, threatened by substantial and continuing legal and other costs, which would be incurred by PDIC in the management and disposal of the (distressed bank's) assets," the report said.

In a report, the COA said that total PDIC assets at end-2004—less the asset purchases without buyback provisions, worthless and other problem assets amounted to only P96.47 billion. This figure already represented 87 percent of what PDIC owed the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

COA also noted that most of the bailout programs were "disadvantageous" to the PDIC, as net recoveries from assets were too low at P1.5 billion.

"It is high time for PDIC to consider the need to provide for conditions or safety nets in insuring banks whose overall health conditions have been determined to be questionable," the COA said.

Government assistance to distressed banks may come in four forms: liquidity assistance, purchase of assets, assumption of liabilities and deposit placement.

If the cost of financial assistance is less than the cost of closure, the PDIC designs the program in consultation with the BSP. If it cannot provide funds for the purpose, the PDIC can then apply for loans from BSP to carry out the assistance.

As of Dec. 31, 2004, the loans payable to the BSP, including accrued interest, stood at P83.95 billion.

GFIs tapped to rescue Al-Amanah

THE GOVERNMENT plans to wipe out the Al-Amanah Islamic Bank's capital shortfall—amounting to P400 million—by helping the country's first and only Islamic bank pursue a subordinated debt or tier 2 offering prior to its privatization.

Land Bank of the Philippines was among the government financial institutions requested by the Department of Finance to help the cash-strapped bank by subscribing to the bank tier 2 capital issuance, said Gilda Pico, LandBank officer-in-charge.

The Development Bank of the Philippines was likewise approached by the Department of Finance and had indicated its willingness to participate in efforts to revitalize the Islamic bank, said Reynaldo David, DBP president.

Under the new risk-based capital adequacy framework adopted by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas for bank supervision, qualifying capital consists of tier 1 or core capital, and tier 2 or supplementary capital less deductions.

Based on Al-Amanah Bank's financial statement, its total assets as of March 28 stood at P87.16 million as against liabilities of P502.8 million. The bank is currently undercapitalized by P415.7 million and has a negative return on equity of about 15 percent.

Doris C. Dumlao

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EQ factor of leadership

By Yoly Villanueva-Ong
Contributor

WHEN Daniel Goleman first put forward his controversial view that Emotional Quotient (EQ) was more important than Intelligence Quotient (IQ) in determining professional and personal success, many academics raised an eyebrow. Where's the evidence?

Since his first book was published in 1995, emotional intelligence has become one of the hottest buzzwords in corporate America. When the Harvard Business Review wrote about the topic, it attracted a higher percentage of readers than any other article published in that periodical in the last 40 years.

What's wrong with this picture?

The new CEO of one of the largest commercial banks had impeccable credentials. He graduated summa cum laude in both college and postgraduate studies in Wharton. He was touted as the one who would turn around the lethargic profits of the bank. Soon a reign of terror began.

Senior partners were humiliated, branch managers were bullied for growth, departments were rationalized seemingly on a whim.

On the first year, 10 partners resigned, 21 branch managers were terminated, and two departments were dissolved. The bank fell in rank, profits were negative and morale was at an all-time low. Some 18 months after the prized CEO was hired, the work environment was completely toxic.

Finally the board fired him. The verdict? Low EQ.

What's the big deal about EQ?

In an experiment done at Yale University, volunteers role play as managers tasked to allocate bonuses to their subordinates.

A trained actor was planted among them. He always spoke first. In some groups the actor projected cheerful enthusiasm, in others relaxed warmth, depressed sluggishness, or hostile irritability. The results indicated that the actor was able to infect the group with his emotion.

Good feelings led to improved cooperation, fairness and overall group performance. The happy groups were better able to distribute the money fairly, and this helped the organization. Evidently, emotional intelligence has as much to do with knowing when and how to express emotion, as it does with controlling it.

Similar findings come from the field. The most effective leaders in the US Navy were warmer, more outgoing, emotionally expressive, dramatic and sociable. "IQ and technical skills are important, but EQ is the sine qua non of leadership," says Goleman.

The role of IQ

IQ by itself is not a very good predictor of job success. It was estimated that at best, IQ accounts for about 25 percent of the variance. But some studies say that 10 percent or lower may be a more realistic estimate.

This is not to suggest that cognitive ability is irrelevant for success. One needs a relatively high IQ just to get admitted to a graduate program. But once you are admitted, how well you do compared to your peers has less to do with IQ differences, and more with social and emotional factors.

Put another way, you probably need an IQ of 120 to get a doctorate or a plum job. But it is more important to be able to persevere in the face of difficulty and get along well with colleagues and subordinates, than to have higher IQ.

IQ and EQ are, in fact, related.

Research suggests that emotional and social skills actually help improve cognitive functioning. In the famous "marshmallow studies" at Stanford University, four-year-olds were asked to stay in a room alone with marshmallows and wait for the researcher to return.

They were told that if they don't eat the marshmallow until the researcher came back, they could have two. Ten years later, the researchers tracked down the kids who participated in the study. Those who were able to resist had a total SAT score that was 210 points higher. They were also more successful in their professional and personal lives, than those who couldn't wait.

Art of listening

In this age of the knowledge worker, intellectual capital, organizational cross-learning, and leveraging human capital—the seemingly simple, yet most profound act of emotional intelligence, listening, provides us a major clue to competitiveness.

Treating business as an organization of power founded on titles and status, is a dying culture based on dominance/submissiveness. These kinds of organizations do not promote listening but unconditional obedience.

The new organization is more like an ecosystem where everything is interconnected. One has power in this new web, or ecosystem, through his position in the company's relationship dynamics. Significance is sustained through actual and perceived personal trustworthiness. Truly, in this new organization, it is "who you know" and that knowing has to be done well.

To know well means to listen well. Historically, managers spend 55 percent of their time listening. With the renewed emphasis on quality relationships that build sustainable enterprises, it can only go higher. It is also proven that the best sales technique in the world is listening.

When someone listens, we feel reassured, understood, and able to move on. If you have a problem in your life right now, there is a 90 percent probability that it is a relationship problem.

It's not what is the problem, but who. This is called the 90-percent factor. Reflect on any problem. Doesn't it have more to do with the relationship dimensions of what's going on, rather than the technical aspects?

Listening is central to managing the 90-percent factor. Listening is also a key skill with which to "grow EQ." People who have high EQ also score well on empathy. And empathy occurs through effective listening.

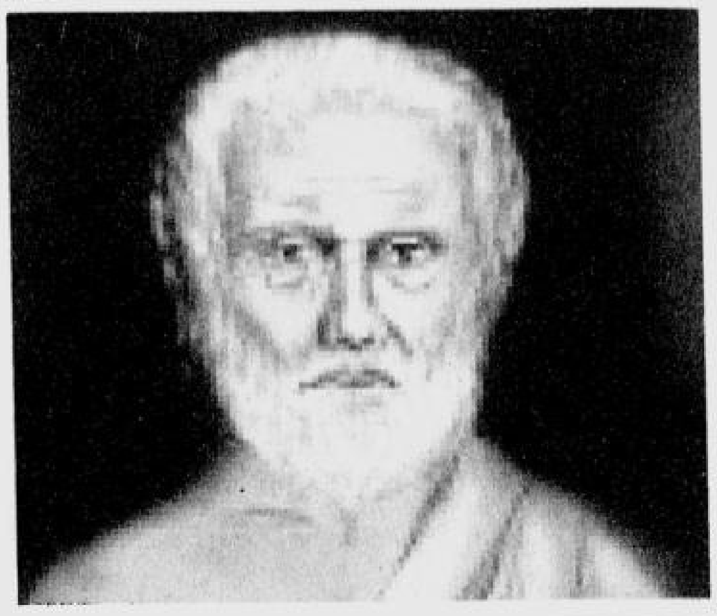
Emotional intelligence at work

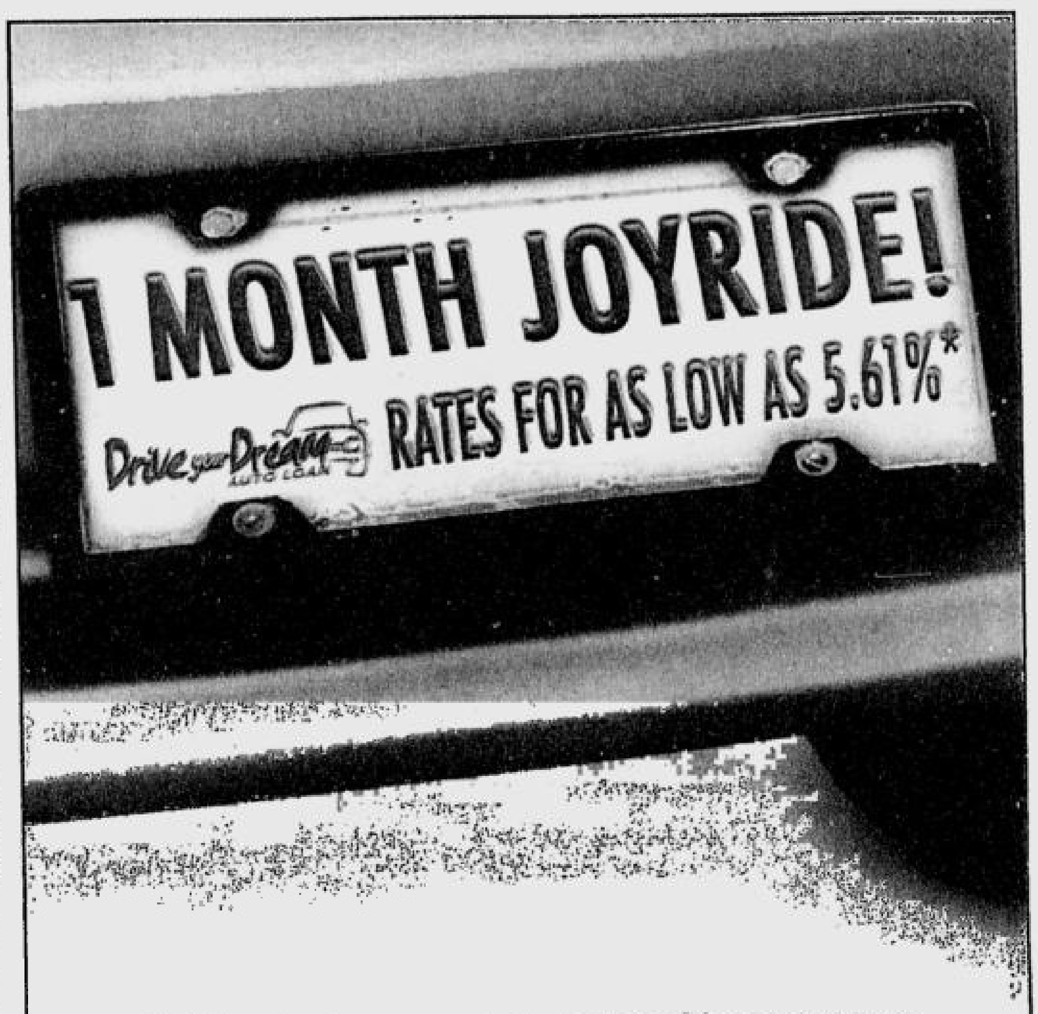
The ability to manage feelings and handle stress is another aspect of emotional intelligence that's important for success. A study of store managers in a retail store found that the ability to manage pressure predicted net profits, sales per square foot, sales per employee, and per dollar of inventory investment.

Those who can identify with others' emotions were more successful in their work as well as in their social lives. A survey of buyers showed that sales reps were valued primarily for their empathy. Those who could listen well and really understand buyers' concerns were significantly preferred.

Emotional intelligence provides the substratum for abilities that promote job success. Goleman makes a distinction between emotional intelligence and emotional competence. Emotional competence refers to the personal and social skills that lead to

EQ FACTOR/ B2-2


OVER 2,000 years ago, Aristotle already had a take on EQ.



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1905 Burnham plan for Manila

A HUNDRED years ago, in 1905, the greatest architect and city planner at that time, Daniel Hudson Burnham, submitted his proposal for the City of Manila—three years before he prepared the plan for the City of Chicago. This topic would be more illuminating to the readers if they are prefaced with the history of Daniel Burnham's 1905 Manila Master Plan.

'Make no little plans'

The City Beautiful Movement proponent Burnham proposed a plan for Manila in 1905 which aimed at five aspects: First, to develop waterfront and location of parks and parkways so as to give proper means of recreation to every quarter of the city; second, the street system securing direct and easy communication from every part of the city to every other part; third, location of building sites for various activities; fourth, development of waterways for transportation; and, fifth, provision for summer resorts.

MAPping THE FUTURE

Felino A. Palafox Jr.

Burnham was responsible for carrying out the master plans for the cities of Washington, DC and Chicago of the United States, and the Philippines' summer capital, Baguio City, where his name is immortalized through naming a park after him—the Burnham Park.

In his words, Burnham would put it, "Make no little plans: They have no magic to stir men's blood and probably themselves will not be realized. Make big plans; aim high in hope and work. Remember that a noble logical diagram, once recorded, will never die, but long after we are gone will be a living thing, asserting itself with ever growing insistence. Remember that our sons and daughters are going to do things that would stagger us. Let your watchword be order and beacon beauty."

The plan for the City of Manila was truly something grand.

Past rewind

Burnham prepared the master plan of Manila for a population of 800,000. The city's population in 1903, as cited in his report, was 223,029.

The plan was to make Manila a city of natural and architectural wonders complemented with parks and plazas with fountains that add to the charm and refreshment of the value of the park—very much like the city of Rome. The plan was based on the advocacy of the City Beautiful Movement where Burnham was a proponent. Manila is an outline of a comprehensive system of traffic circulation, a radial pattern fixed on a center, and development of water transport system.

In a report Burnham submitted to the Secretary of War in Washington, DC, William H. Taft, on June 28, 1905, he cited the aforementioned five items for the proposed improvements in Manila.

One significant proposal made by Burnham is the development of watercourses in Manila to act as major transport system. It is worthy to note that long before Burnham conceptualized the master plan, Pasig River and Manila Bay were already major access of Chinese and Mexican merchants for exchange of goods with Filipino traders.

Burnham saw Manila in cities like Paris, Venice and Naples. A river (the Pasig) runs through it and the city has a bay. He proposed shaded drives along the Pasig and a people's promenade near Manila Bay. Parks are a necessity as breathing spaces for a congested city, so goes the report of Burnham. As such, there are a number of parks and play fields that had been incorporated in the plan.

Burnham envisioned Manila in his proposal, as somewhat like the Washington DC— "the best planned of all modern cities."

Burnham proposed an integrated spatial pattern—on top of basic grid—a circulation pattern radiating from a government building site near the Walled City—circumferential and diagonal arteries will cut through rectangular street patterns. This will link it to the northeast and to the other sections of the city. The rectangular patterns of residential areas allow sunlight to penetrate all sides of the building.

Given emphasis on the master plan is the clustering of government buildings arranged in a formal manner around a rectangular mall which is oriented toward the water.

And to highlight the picturesque Manila Bay, Burnham incorporated in his plan the extending of Luneta (or reclaiming part of Manila Bay) at least 1,000 feet whose sides are complemented with a hotel and various clubs. Burnham envisioned the hotel as a world-famous resort that would draw strong attraction from travelers the world over. He also stressed out the preservation of Intramuros despite objections from many that its walls obstruct traffic and ventilation.

William E. Parsons was given the responsibility to provide designs and drawings, specifications and estimates for all public buildings in the city. Buildings designed during that time resembled the Greek and Roman temples showcasing monumentality, simplicity or formality.

In 1914, Ralf Harrington Doane replaced him. Doane was responsible for designing the Legislative and the Executive Buildings at the Malacañang. When the Philippine Commonwealth was inaugurated, most buildings were designed by Filipino architects.

Beautiful city

The vision of Burnham is to make Manila the most beautiful city in the Far East just as Washington, DC the best-planned city in the United States. A city where the culturati and the literati converge. A city overflowing with opportunities and a city deserving of its status as the capital of the Philippines.

Burnham's grand plan for the 800,000-populated Manila, which at the turn of the century, figured at 1.722 million according to the records of the city government for the year 2000 census, was never implemented completely. Had only half of it been carried out, Manila would still be the best-planned city in the Orient.

Manila at present, is divided into six political districts. First and second districts cover the area of Tondo. Third district covers Binondo, Quiapo, San Nicolas and Sta. Cruz. The fourth district covers Sampaloc area while Ermita, Intramuros, Malate, Paco, Port Area and San Andres compose the fifth district. San Miguel, Pandacan, Sta. Ana and Sta. Mesa form the sixth district.

Hundred years after

Today's picture of Manila is a congested city suffering from disrepair and social maladies. Along with historic developments in Manila comes the rapid population growth significantly so because of the continuing influx of migrants from other provinces.

Among the major problems the city faces these days are the flood problem and informal settlements. These problems have gotten worse at the turn of the century posing great challenge to city officials and residents.

It is unfortunate however that we copied cities like Los Angeles that are transport-oriented metropolis. Had we developed the best practices in the world such as the cities of Washington DC, Paris, Venice and San Francisco, Manila would fit the title City Beautiful of the Orient, as Burnham put it, "...the Pearl of the Orient."

A term paper I authored and submitted in Harvard Graduate School of Design in 2003 entitled Manila Bay—Pacific Coast Metropolitan Region Concept Plan 2020 or Manila Megalopolis 2020 showed that Metro Manila has a daytime population of 14 million people and 10 million at nighttime.

An earlier Harvard study in 2002 illustrate that Metro Manila has the highest population growth rate among the world's megacities at 60 persons per hour. Its population is expected to reach 20 million before the year 2020. The metropolis is one of the 20 megacities in the world. Though it is only 0.21 percent of the Philippines total land area, Metro Manila has 13 percent of the country's population and contributes 31 percent of the national production.

The Manila Megalopolis Concept Plan 2020 puts forward a strategy taking advantage of the location of the Philippines nationally and globally.

Part of the plan is the development of, among others, urban development corridors and clustering growth centers like the former US military bases Subic and Clark, Sta. Rosa, Calamba, San Pablo, Lucena, Tagaytay, Dasmariñas, Nasugbu, Lipa, Batangas City, San Fernando/Angeles, Olongapo, Dingalan, Infanta/Real, Antipolo, San Jose del Monte, and Cabanatuan/Palayan and the opening up of new gateways on the Pacific Ocean coastline.

This will spur new investments in the region and redevelopment opportunities in the inner cities creating jobs and economic opportunities especially for the urban poor.

Postscript

The Burnham plan has inspired Palafox Associates to come up with what we call "Postcards from the Future." We took photos of the areas in Metro Manila that are physically blight and come up with our proposal of what these areas would be in the future.

These "Postcards from the Future" images showcase a beautiful and functional metropolis comparable to the likes of the cities of Venice, Paris, and some of the best practices in the world.

Many believed in the preconceived notion that the city is the place to good life as attractions are numerous—the malls, restaurants, theaters. Because of this preconceived notion, more and more people are lured to come to Metro Manila in search of this "good life." The continued urban migration of people has crowded the city. Concerns on crime, poverty, urban blight and "uglification" of the city are issues to tackle.

Pushing for the ideals of Daniel Burnham, I would like to see our cities connected, accessible, walkable, livable, convenient, clean, safe, mixed-income, cross generational, integrated places to live, work, shop, dine, learn, healthcare and worship, and 24-hour cycle activity centers.

(The author is principal architect, urban planner and founder of Palafox Associates. Feedback at mapsec@globenet.com.ph.)

EQ factor of leadership

From page B2-1

superior performance in the world of work.

It is necessary to have EQ to learn the emotional competencies. The skill to recognize accurately what another person is feeling enables him to develop a specific aptitude such as influence. Similarly, people who control their emotions better will find it easier to develop a competency, such as initiative or achievement drive.

Increase your emotional intelligence

What's amazing about EQ is that, unlike IQ, which stabilizes when a person reaches 18 years—EQ can change. A person with a low score on "empathy" can have a higher score in the future—if he recognizes his limitation, changes attitude, adopts a learning strategy and practices key listening and empathy skills.

Leading organizations in the future will be those that develop people with outstanding EQ. The future will belong to those who have excellent relationship skills. Human capital will then truly influence corporate performance—through people, pride and profits.

Over 2000 years ago, Aristotle already had a take on EQ. He said, "Anyone can become angry, that is easy. But to be angry with the right person, to the right degree, at the right time, for the right purpose, and in the right way—that is not easy."

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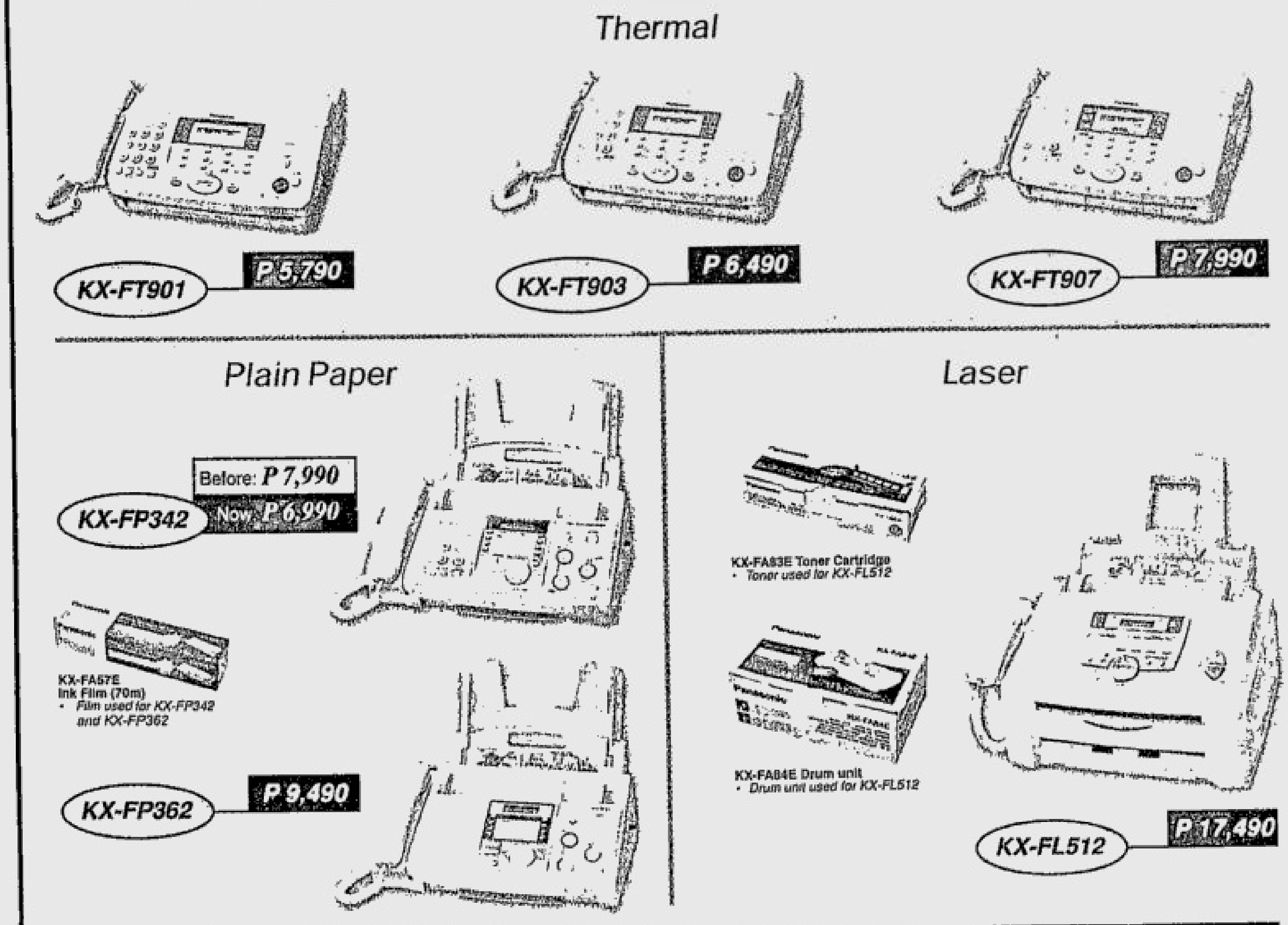

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MOVEMENTS

Motorola appoints new VP

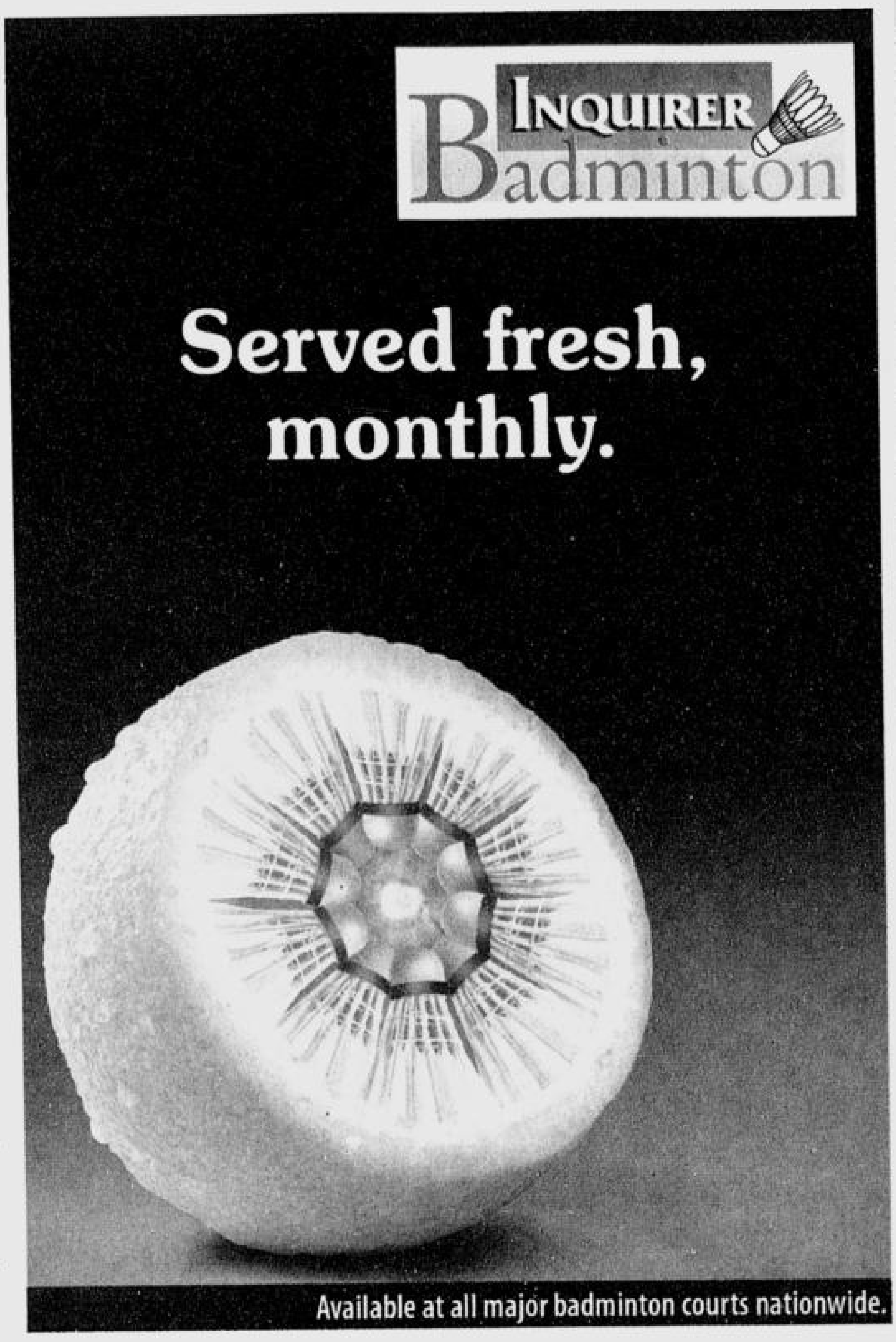
Motorola Inc. recently announced the appointment of Jay Andersen as vice president, Sales and Operations for Motorola Networks in Asia. A veteran Motorolan, Andersen returns to the region and will be based in Singapore where he will oversee operations in the Asian markets. These include Hong Kong, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Bangladesh, Vietnam, as well as Australia and New Zealand.

In his new capacity, Andersen will drive business strategies and product marketing for Motorola Networks across Asia, providing world-class telecommunications and network solutions and services to telecom operators.

An immediate focus for Andersen is to continue to expand Motorola Networks which includes cellular radio access, IP networks including IMS and SoftSwitch, wireline access, new broadband wireless access platforms and a services and applications management business.

The Asia Pacific region continues to be strategic for Motorola Networks. Here, Motorola has presence across 15 countries and is a vendor of choice to approximately 80 telecommunications companies, enterprises and government bodies. Today, Motorola is leading the charge in the convergence race with its Seamless Mobility strategy to enable network operators to grow with next-generation converged telecommunications services.

"Jay keeps bringing great value to the Motorola management team; having provided excellent leadership and expertise to Motorola for over 23 years. He is a recognized and respected veteran in the telecommunications industry," said Simon Leung, regional president, Motorola Asia Pacific. "Jay and his team's drive and direction will be vital in fulfilling the Motorola vision of Seamless Mobility in one of our most critical regions, Asia."



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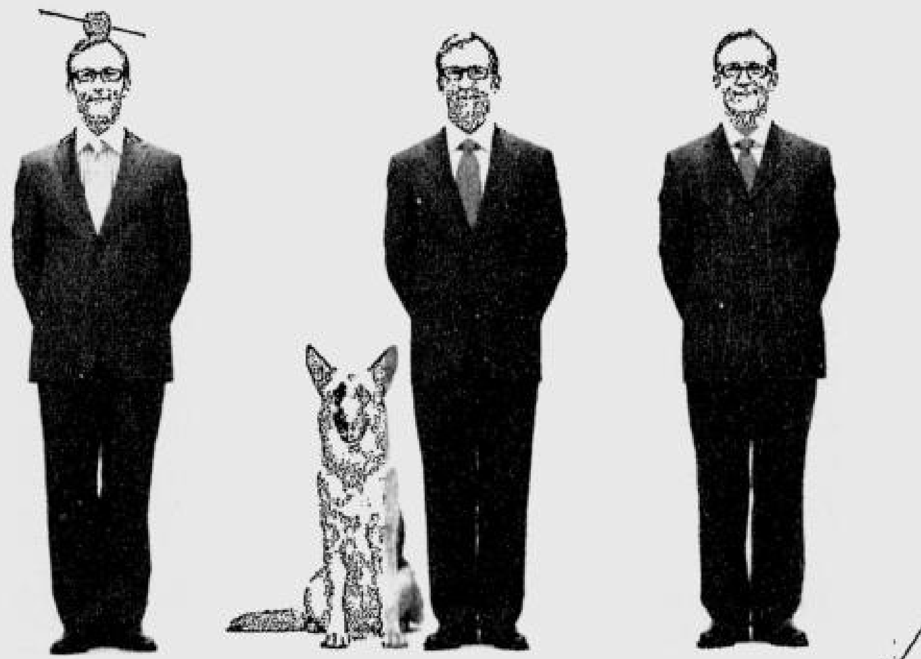
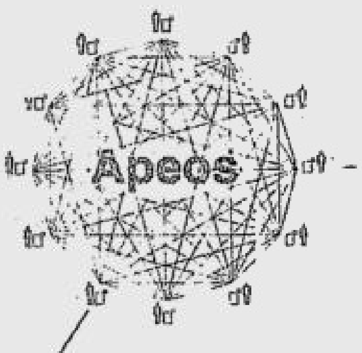
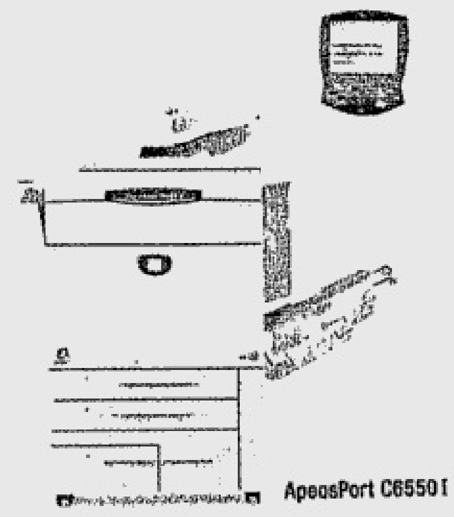
ApeosPort
GATEWAY TO THE INTELLIGENT FIELD







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Apeos is a virtual work field - an environment that provides solutions to today's increasingly complex business challenges by freely utilizing software that exist on the network.

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It also enables knowledge-sharing and interoperable linking of mission critical digital data and paper-based documents with minimal manpower, low cost and a short lead-time.

The Web browser can be displayed on the large operation panel*2 and frequently-used Web applications can be programmed to be shown. What's more, uploading scanned documents to a specified folder on the Web application or printing digital documents stored in the folder directly is now as easy as copying.

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*1 Apeos Intranet Integration Framework is based on XML *2 Optional. Applicable to ApeosPort C6550I/C5540I series *3 A4 LEF with ApeosPort C6550I. For ApeosPort C5540I, 55ppm (monochrome) and 40ppm (colour)
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People do what people see

A LEADER'S WAY

John C. Maxwell

IN YOUR life as a leader, many things are beyond your control.

You can't control what your people say about you or think about you. You can't control the decisions prospective clients make about your company. You can't control your competitors' marketing tactics. You can't control the national economy, the stock market or the weather.

But in the midst of an ever-changing, often uncertain environment, there is one thing over which you have absolute control—your integrity.

When it comes to being honest, principled and ethical, you are the master of your own destiny.

Other people and external forces might test it in various ways, but at the end of the day, you alone control your integrity.

Integrity is all-encompassing. It's not something you demonstrate at home or church and set on a shelf at work. People of integrity don't live bifurcated lives; their morals, ethics, treatment of others and overall character are the same wherever they are, whatever they're doing.

This foundational element of leadership crosses geographic, religious, cultural and socioeconomic boundaries. As Federal Express founder Fred Smith says, "If you look at every religion in the world, they all have the identical Golden Rule, almost word for word. It does not make any difference what religion or geography it is. There are universally transferable fundamental truths about how you treat people in both the business world and in the larger scheme of things."

When you follow the Golden Rule and live with integrity, you set an example that has a far greater impact than any words you could ever speak.

Why is leading by example such a powerful concept? I can answer that with five short words: People do what people see.

It sounds so simple, but it's absolutely true. And it applies to so many areas of leadership.

First of all, it's the No. 1 motivational principle. If you want to motivate your people to go to a whole new level, get motivated to grow and develop yourself. Remember—people do what people see.

Second, it's the No. 1 training principle. When someone asks me, "How do you train your people?" I don't have to think twice about it—people do what people see. If they see their leaders constantly learning and acquiring new skills and competencies, they'll be inspired to do the same.

Thirdly, "people do what people see" is the No. 1 mentoring principle. What do you do when you mentor someone? You flesh out your life for them—you give them an insider's view of what you're experiencing and how you're handling it.

The goal, of course, is for the person you're mentoring to learn from your mistakes and successes so that when they are faced with something similar, they make the right choices.

Finally, it's the No. 1 values principle. A company might spend a great deal of time formulating impressive-sounding values statements and core beliefs, but these principles don't mean anything unless the leaders in the company—from the corner office on down—model them consistently.

Why is adhering to the right values such an important part of leading by example?

Paul O'Neill, retired Alcoa chairman and former treasury secretary, gives us a clue: "If people can find even trivial examples of deviation, those deviations will become the norm," he says. "You really have to be almost religious in making sure that you don't do something somebody can point to in a negative way."

In other words, if you want to lead by example in a positive way, you must be committed to living a life of integrity. When you're right on the inside, you lead correctly on the outside. It starts with you and spreads out to everyone in your circle of influence.

If you want to be a successful leader in turbulent times, live with integrity and lead by example. Remember—people do what people see.

(For information on John Maxwell's in-house or public leadership programs, please email us at maxwell@inspire.ph or call 813-2732/03 and ask for Gina. Text MAXWELL ON to 4632 (Smart) to get daily SMS leadership insights from John Maxwell.)

Australian toy maker harvests rainwater

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—An Australian executive here has shown the way on how businesses and households can save on water and money while help avert a looming water crisis in Central Luzon.

Hans Axthelm does his bit for Mother Nature by harvesting rainwater.

The company he owns, the Hansa Toy International Inc., one of the world's famous stuffed toy makers, gathers the liquid in a water tank capable of storing a million liters every rainy season.

Axthelm, managing director and chief executive officer of Hansa, had this tank built beside the firm's factory on Andres Soriano Street in 1998 or four years after his firm began doing business at Clark's main zone.

The factory's 6,000-square-meter roof catches water that flows directly to the covered tank.

Axthelm pushed the "simple, effective and inexpensive technology" during the recently held Central Luzon summit on integrated water resource management.

The tank's supply, he told policy makers, lasts for eight months.

The company has not drawn groundwater, which is widely used in the region.

Heavy groundwater withdrawal has hastened the sinking of coastal areas in Bulacan, Bataan and Pampanga as well as several cities in Metro Manila, marine geologists Kelvin Rodolfo and Fernando Siringan said as they shared the results of a study that has been ongoing in the last seven years.

"The water is used for drinking, cleaning and bathroom needs of our 270 employees. It's totally safe from any bacteria," Axthelm said.

That's because the tank is properly maintained and not exposed to sunlight.

The tank also provides water for toy production.

Hansa exports its toys to 21 countries in North America, Europe and some parts of Asia.

Appealing to business executives in more than 300 companies here, Axthelm said everyone should take advantage of the volume of rainfall in this part of the Philippines.

This, he said, could help ease water shortage that he said was worst than the depletion of oil.

Scientists expect the water deficit to hit Central Luzon in 2025 when the demand overtakes by half the potential supply of 12.5 million cubic meters.

Axthelm has reaped the benefits of harvesting rainwater.

It saves about P15,000 in the company's monthly water bill. Savings are used to improve the welfare of workers, he said.

In his estimates, the savings in 10 years could reach about P3 million. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

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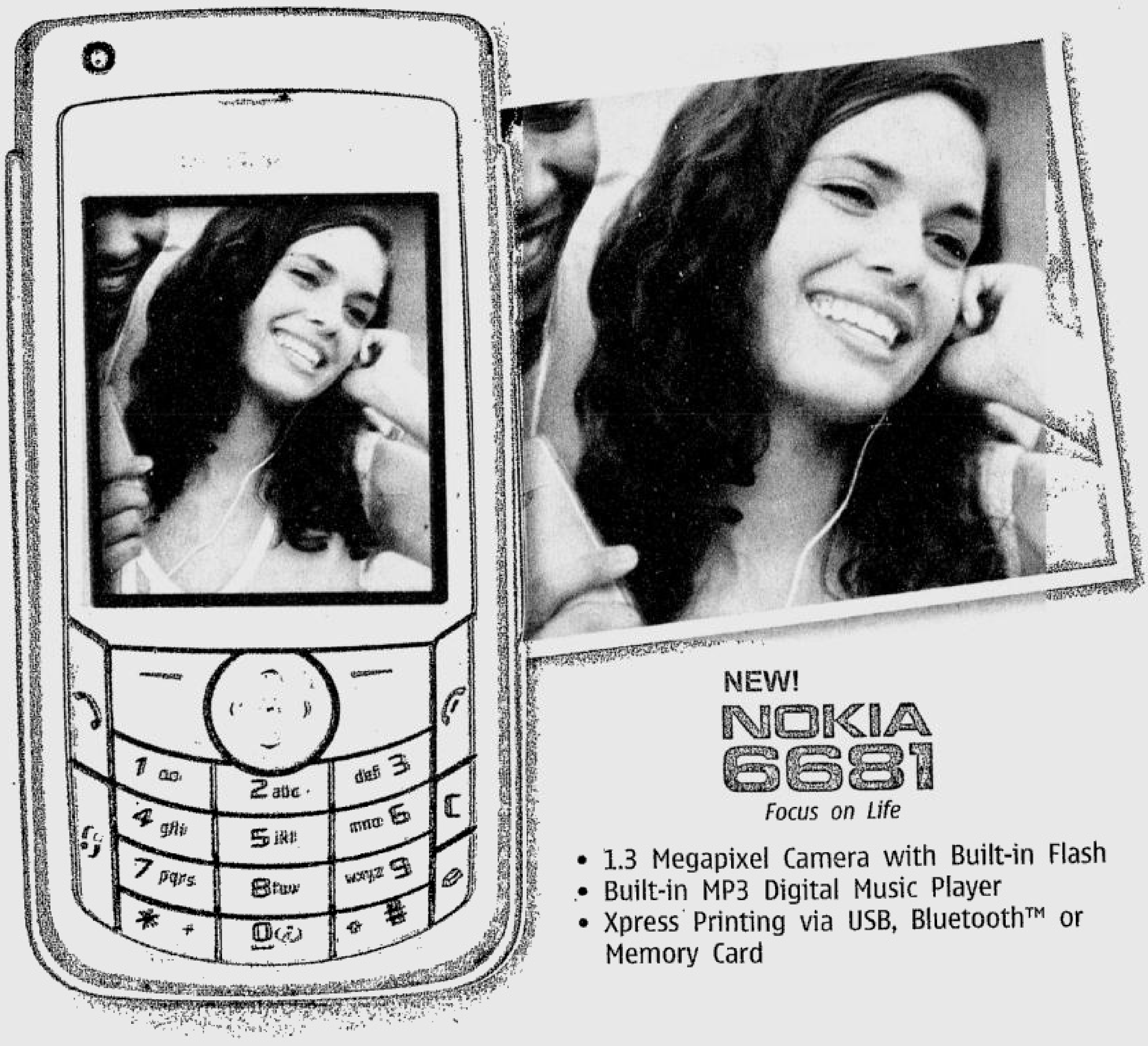

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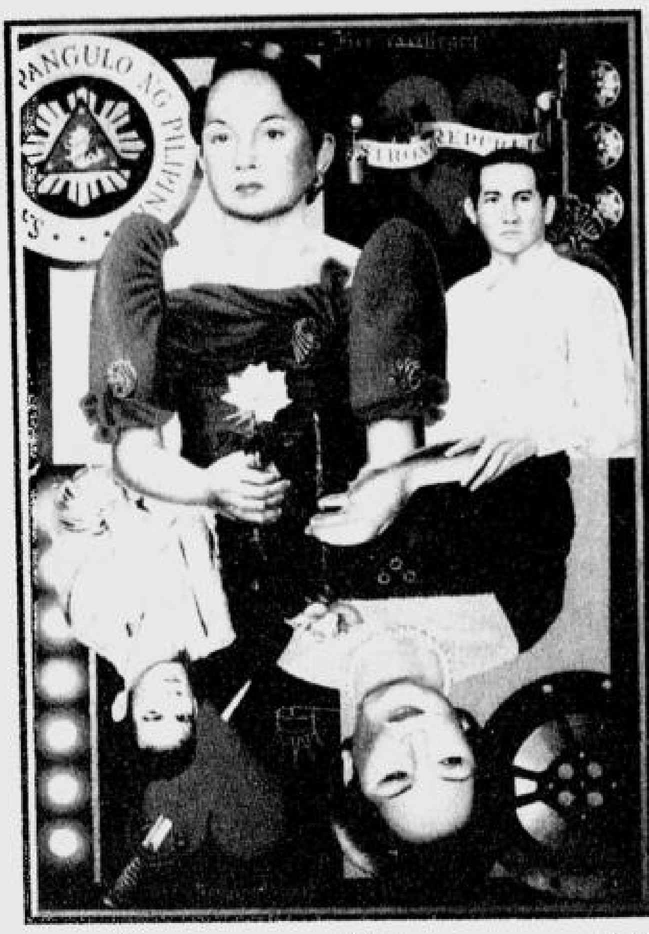
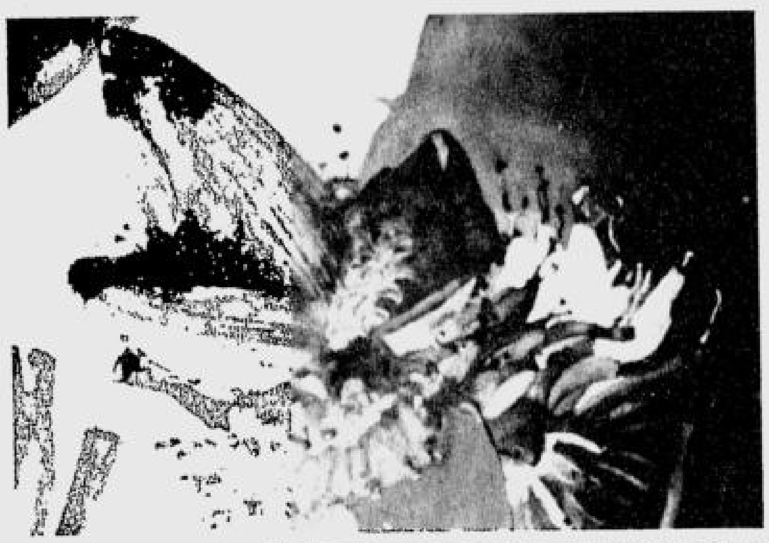
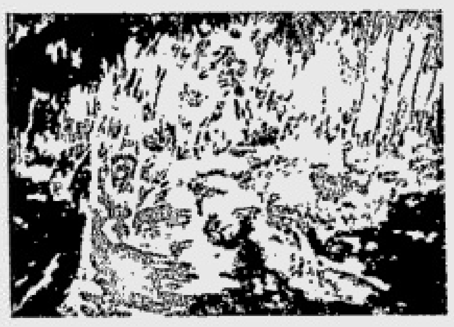


"EXTENDED Glory: War of the Roses," by Noli Manalang





"PUSO," by Fred Galan

"ELIM sa Ating Kalagitnaan," by Pablo Baens Santos

Pinoy artists show mastery of a difficult medium

Life in watercolor

By Gino Dormiendo
Contributor

ONE show no serious art enthusiast should miss is the "Annual Kulay sa Tubig Invitational Watercolor Competition."

It is, after all, more than just a contest of skills and dexterity with the watercolor medium. It is a mutual undertaking by both organizers (Ernie and Chichi Salas of Gallery Genesis) and all the watercolorists invited to show their choice oeuvre, without restrictions on subject matter and mode of treatment.

Now on its 22nd year, Kulay sa Tubig (Art Center and Gallery Genesis, SM Megamall) received over 90 entries, executed on slightly bigger format than before.

There were the Hall of Famers, those who won the top prize thrice and must continually adhere to the high standards expected of winners. A few names have been added to this elite group, validating our claim that many are lured to the medium but only a few are chosen.

As a member of the jury this year (together with Eric Torres, Jun de Leon, Alice Guillermo, academic Jack Pilar, Jack Teotico and Arthur Juan), I confess the judges reached a consensus on the top winners early in the judging.

In fact, the Top 10 emerged without much fuss, the jury quickly isolating the men from the boys, so to speak.

Though facility with watercolor was essential, what was deemed more important was the ability to show an idiosyncratic touch that bordered on virtuosity, a winning style that elicited more than just a cursory glance.

The Top 5 this year included Pablo Baens Santos, Caloy Gabuco, Fred Galan, Aner Sebastian and Chris Mirang.

Baens Santos' "Elim sa Ating Kalagitnan" shows a flood-drenched landscape, people escaping nature's wrath—a scene straight out of Exodus.

Gabuco, who does figurative works equally well, has always gone back to abstraction for competitions. In "Impetus," he splashes a field of color, accented by swirling lines of curvilinear orientation.

Galan, who hails from Cebu, has a still life, the strikingly charming "Puso" dangling from a

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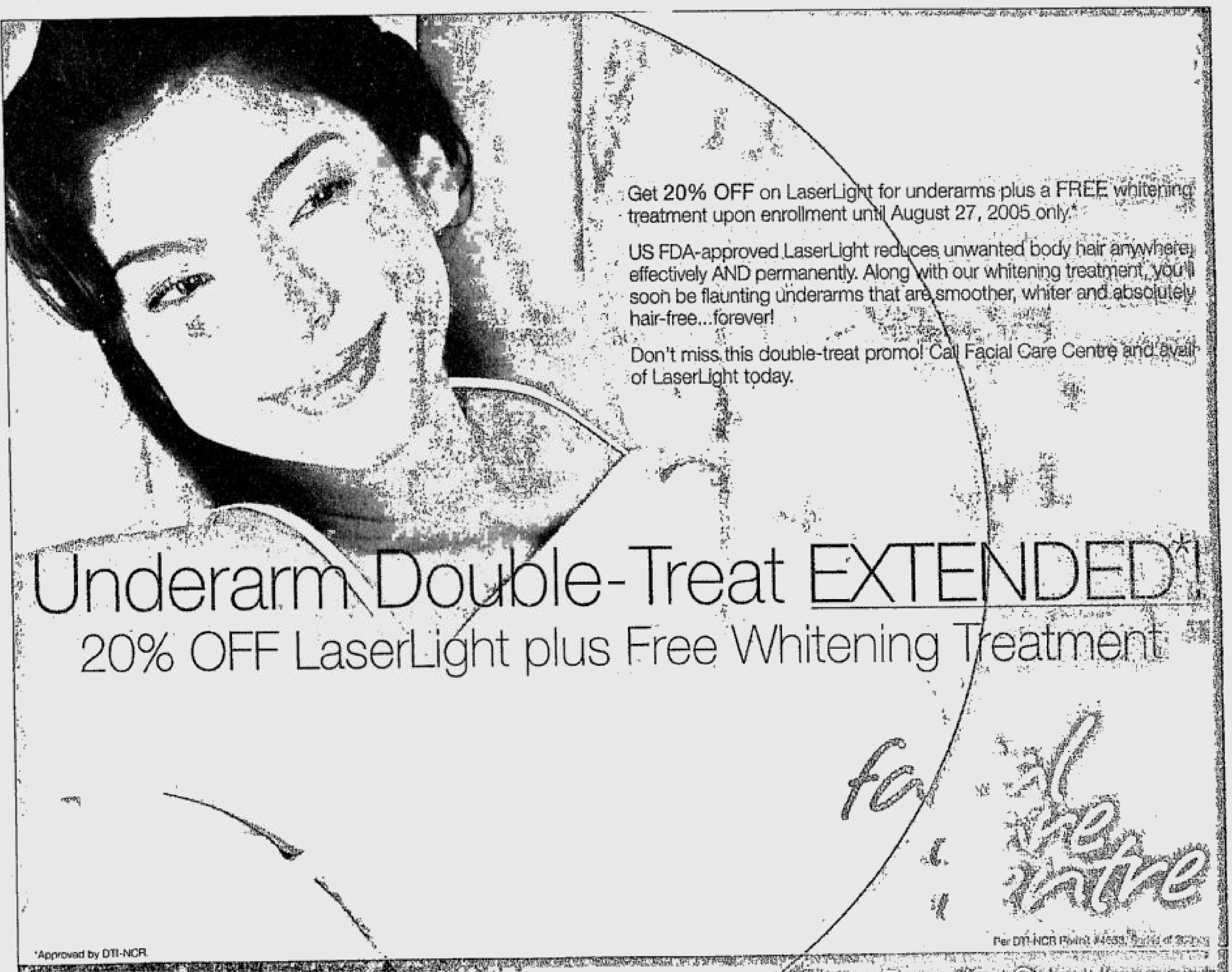

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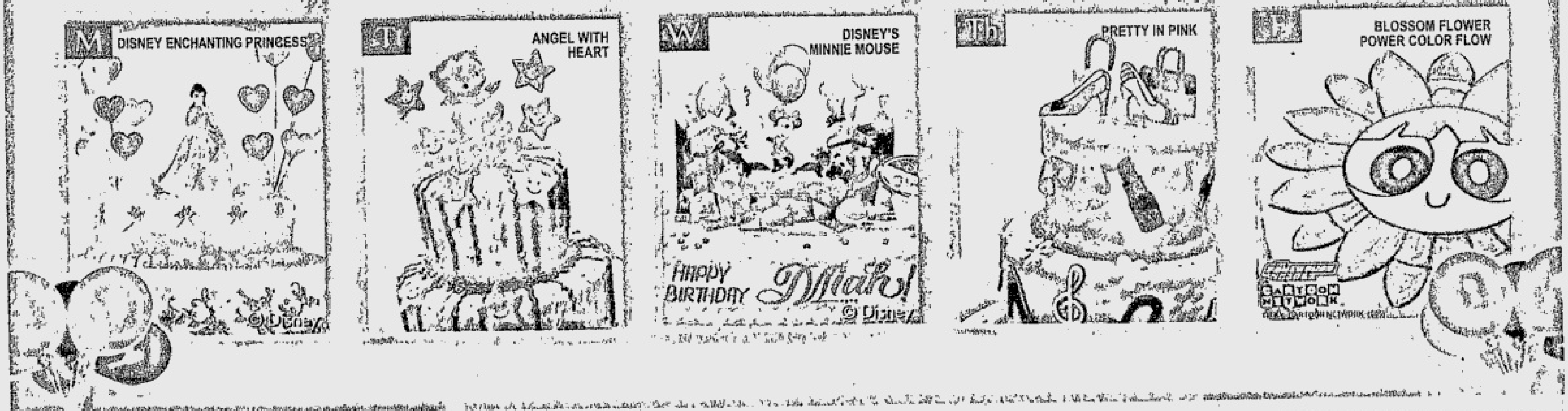

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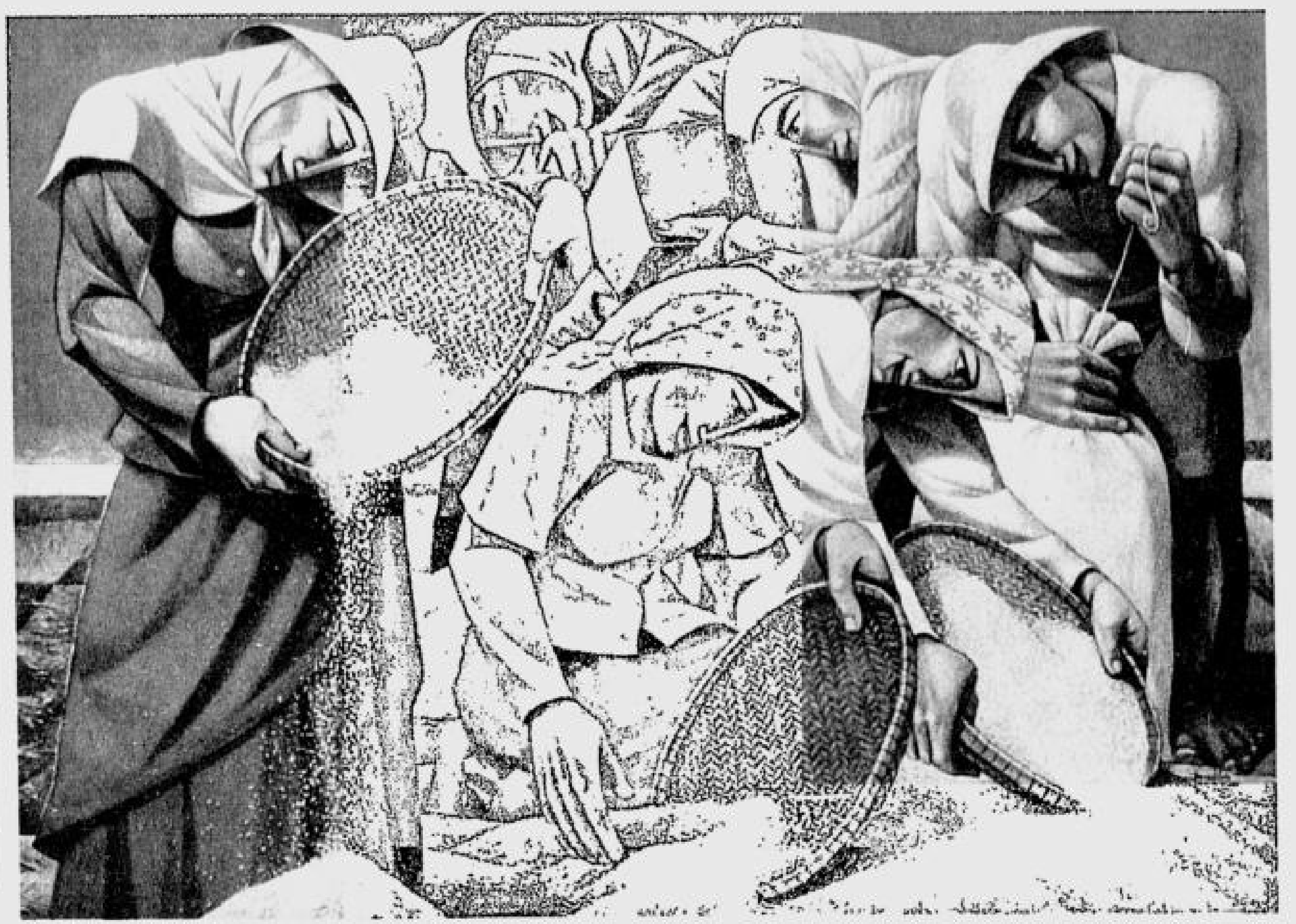
Alvarados at Hiraya, Tuazon at West, Banal at Silver Lens, Vista at Joaquin

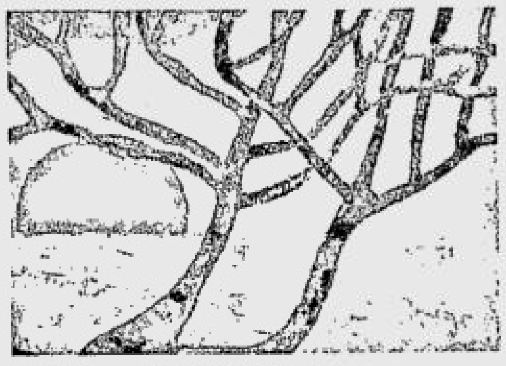
VISUAL ARTS

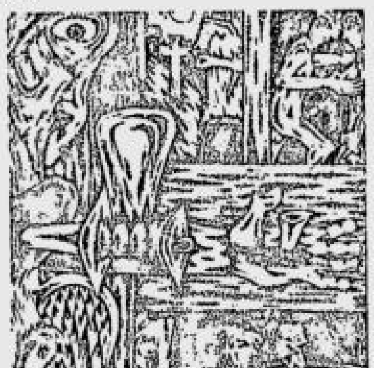
HIRAYA Gallery presents "Infernal Hunger" by Burog, Bogie and Nuklar Alvarado. The exhibit shows how the young Filipino generation of yuppies and Gen-X relate to social issues. "Infernal Hunger" runs Aug. 27-Sept. 14 at 530 UN Ave., Ermita, Manila. Call 5233331.

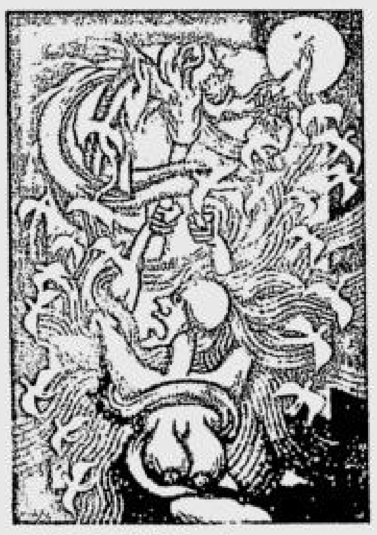
GALLERIA Duemila showcases Gines Serran Pagan's "Memory of Philippines" on Sept. 2-18 at the 4/L, Megamall A. Palawan, Bohol, Mindanao, Boracay and Makati serve as inspiration for Pagan's works. Call 6343261/ 6336687.

WEST Gallery features Wire Tuazon's "Mortal Splendor" on Aug. 23-Sept. 10 at 48 West Ave., QC. Tuazon creates both two-dimensional and three-dimensional pieces as he showcases his newest paintings and installation works in mixed media. Installations are represented in historical, figurative and expressive conditions. The paintings show diverse meanings and aspects of life and death. Call 4110336, 4119221 or 3721194.


"GININTUANG Butil na Biyaya," by Bernard Vista





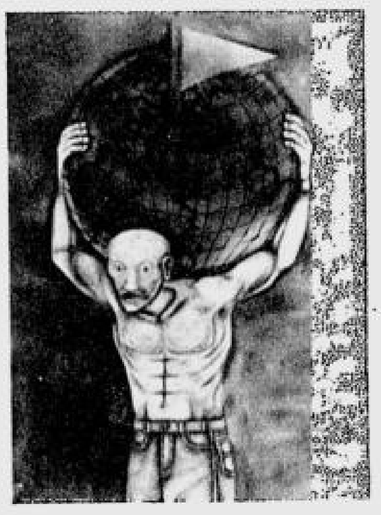


YASON Banal's "18 Stations to Death and Dementia" exhibit starts Aug. 23, 5-8 p.m., at Silver Lens Gallery, 33C Pacific Tower Plaza, Bonifacio Global City.

GALERIE Joaquin (371 P. Guevarra St. and Montessori Lane, San Juan, MM) presents Bernard Vista, one of Pakil, Laguna's most exciting visual artists, on Aug. 24-Sept. 7. The 25 works, in oil on canvas, are modern and creative interpretations of the Filipino way of life, brimming with optimism. Vista was a scholar of the Saturday Group of artists under the late National Artist Cesar Legaspi. Call 7235293. Visit www.galeriejoaquin.com.

NANNETTE Guinto Amorado, Tess Esguerra Tarnate and Rusty Gregorio present "Tri-angle." The three artists interpret common subjects in three different ways and three different moods. The show opens today and runs until Sept. 10 at the Art Gallery of the Philippine Heart Center, East Avenue, QC.

CLOCKWISE from top: "Reaching Out," by Nannette Guinto Amorado; "Libog Bagol," by Bogie Alvarado; "Padulong sa Kadalag-an," by Burog Alvarado


"ATLAS," by Nuklar Alvarado

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Tuition fee includes ingredients, manual, aprons, chef's jacket and chef's kit.

For more information call 726-5316 or 412 7792 and ask Rita or Jenny

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

September 1 (Thursday) 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. (classroom A) SOUTH BEACH DIET PHASE I by: Jacqueline Haessig Alleje, owner of Rizal Dairy Farm, Swiss-Pinoy restaurateur (Vieux Chalet Swiss restaurant), organic caterer and food consultant (Petra's naturally green, global, gourmet) * This class will guide you the principles of healthy nutrition & the nutritional guideline, menu plan & recipes of Phase 1 of the South Beach Diet Swiss Pinoy Style - the strictest phase of the diet. Inclusive of complete menu plan recipes and cooking demo. P2,800

September 2 (Friday) 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (classroom A) NEW CLASS! PHILIPPINE SWEETS & DELICACIES PART VII by: Chef Carol Acosta, food consultant to multinational food companies & restaurants. *Ensaimada Malolos, Español w/ Kundol, Bibingka Vigan, Ube Pulo, Bibingka Uba and Buko Pie. P1,500

September 3 (Saturday) 9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. (classroom A) DELI SANDWICHES & SALADS by: Chef Jane Paredes, Food Consultant, trained at the Culinary Institute of America Hyde Park, New York and Peter Kump's New York Cooking School *This class will teach you how to prepare & package deli-style sandwiches & salads for take out counter & food to go. Recipes: Assorted Cold Cuts, Chicken Pastrami, Tuna-Apple, Grilled Eggplant & Cheese, Crabstick Salad, Homemade Potato Salad, Aioli Dip with Potato Chips, Fresh Fruit Compote and Garden Green Salad. P1,700

September 3 (Saturday) 1:30 – 5:30 p.m. (classroom A) BASIC RESTAURANT SERVICE SKILLS by: Cecile Mauricio, former editor of Mabuhay Philippines (Philippine Airlines' in-flight magazine), is a communication and marketing consultant for various restaurants.* Restaurant staff who can communicate well is the key to improved sales and services. A concise workshop for new waiters and waitresses, new restaurant owners, or a refresher course for regular staff. Course Outline: Communication Skills, Personality Development, Customer Service, Sales & Marketing Concepts and Service Strategies. P1,500

September 5 (Monday) 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (classroom A) NEW CLASS! BEST-EVER BREAKFAST & BRUNCH by: Chef Jane Paredes * Churros con Chocolate, Egg Cookery, Waffle, French Toast, Croque Monsieur, Croque Madame,Sausage & Cheese Roesti, Huevos Rancheros, Eggs Benedict and Fresh Fruit Compote. P2,500

September 5 (Monday) 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (classroom B) NEW CLASS! CUCINA DI MAGRO (Low Fat & Meatless Italian Recipes) by: Chef Giorgio Bucciarelli, Master Pizzaiolo & Barista, food consultant of various Italian restaurants all over Metro Manila, graduated at Culinary Institute, Milan, Italy *Peperoni Ripieni ala Piemontese(Baked peppers stuffed with rice), Pomodori al Tonno (Stuffed tomatoes with tuna), Linguine al Limone e Vodka (Linguine in lemon vodka sauce), Zuppa di Pesce d' Ortona (Fish soup from Ortona), Sogliolone alla Zia Ida (Flounder with capers), Pescespada alla Sardegnola (Swordfish, Sardinian style) Padellata di Verdure (mixed vegetables), Cipolle Ripiene (Stuffed baked onions). P2,500

September 6 (Tuesday) 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (classroom A) COFFEE CLASS by: Chef Aileen Anastacio-Sandoval, owner of Goodies N' Sweet Bakeshop & C'est Si Bon, Dean's list graduate of Culinary at the California Culinary Academy * If you are planning to open a coffee shop this course is for you. Learn the four fundamentals of coffee brewing, home espresso, guide to steaming & foaming. Make fun toppings & garnishes & master the art of coffee making. Recipes: Caffé Latte, Caffé Mocha, Caffé Americano, Cappuccino, Espresso Macchiato & Espresso Con Panna, Almond Coffee Freeze, Icy Rum Coffee Cream, Toffee Coffee, Mudslide Malt, Mocha Rumba, Rocky Road and more! P3,000

September 6 (Tuesday) 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (classroom B) SIOPAO & MAMI WORKSHOP by: Chef Katherine Sion, restaurateur (Ding Hao & Fat Kat restaurant), caterer and an expert in Chinese cuisine. * Chicken Bola-Bola, Asado Pao, Bola-bola Pao, Jumbo Siopao with Chinese Sausage, Chicken Asado Mami & Beef Mami. P2,500

September 7 (Wednesday) 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (classroom A) NEW CLASS! ADVANCED KOREAN COOKING CLASS by: Chef Cecile Park, owner of Silla Korean Restaurant & food consultant to various Korean restaurants in Metro Manila. *Kimchi (Baguio Pechay & Raddish), Haemul Pajeon (Seafood Pancake with Several Vegetable), Samgye Tang (Ginseng Whole Chicken, Glutinous Rice & Ginseng), Teige Calbi Chim (Spareribs Stew), Bulgogi Salad (Beef Tenderloin Barbecue with Vegetables & Sauce), Tak Salad (Chicken-Salad), Tak Don Tang (Spicy Chicken Stew) and Chap Chae (Contemporary Restaurant Style). P2,500

September 8 (Thursday) 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.(classroom A) NEW CLASS! PAELLA VARIATIONS by: Chef Ed Quimson, is a seasoned master chef Spanish origin, creator of Chef Ed's Restaurant at Salcedo Village, Makati City and his latest FILOS at The Fort, Makati City. He has also lent his expertise to such restaurants as La Tasca, Via Mare, The Nielsen Tower, the Member's Lounge of the Phil. Stock Exchange & the Subic Yacht Club *Recipes: Prawns and Duck, Salpicao w/ Caramelized Onions, Chanfaina, Chicken & Seafood, Filipino. P3,000

September 9 (Friday) 9:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.(classroom A) BASIC CAKES & ICINGS FOR BEGINNERS by: Heny Sison. * Butter Cake with Butter Icing, Moist Chocolate Cake with Fudge Icing, Mocha Cake with No-Melt Butter Icing, Lemon Chiffon Cake with Boiled Icing & Sponge Cake with Whipped Cream Icing. P1,500

September 9 (Friday) 2:00 - 5:00 p.m. (classroom A) COOKIES FOR COFFEE by: Heny Sison *Chunky Chewy White Choco Macadamia Cookies, Espresso Biscotti, Chocolate Chip Biscotti, Greek Cookies and Almond Wafer. P1,500

September 10 (Saturday) 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. (classroom A) SOUTH BEACH DIET PHASE I by: Jacqueline Haessig Alleje * This class will guide you the principles of healthy nutrition & the nutritional guideline, menu plan & recipes of Phase 1 of the South Beach Diet Swiss Pinoy Style - the strictest phase of the diet. Inclusive of complete menu plan recipes and cooking demo. P2,800

September 12-14 & 16-17 (Monday – Wednesday & Friday-Saturday) 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m (classroom A) GUMPASTE FLOWER MAKING by: Heny Sison *A unique method of making gum paste using a foam pad, a pair of scissors and cutters. The course covers: the Rose, Carnation, Stephanotis, Tulips, Filler Flowers, Cattleya, Christmas Holy, Poinsettia, Daisy, Tiger Lily and Quick Leaves. Learn how to use airbrush and edible petal dust to color the flowers and bunch them into a bouquet. Full participation. P5,000

September 12-14 & 16-17 (Monday – Wednesday & Friday - Saturday) 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.(classroom A) ADVANCED CAKE DECORATION by: Heny Sison *This course covers: baking of fruitcake, covering it with marzipan then with rolled fondant. Learn South African and Australian methods using delicate icing wings, curtainings, ribbon insertion done on rolled fondant, quilting & cut-outs Prerequisite: MASTER IN CAKE DECORATION. Full participation. P10,000

September 12-14 & 16-17 (Monday – Wednesday & Friday – Saturday) 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (classroom A) LAMBETH CONTINENTAL COURSE (The Ultimate In Cake Decorating) by: Heny Sison *The course covers: the intricate overpiping borders on royal icing and fondant covered cakes. Students decorate cake using combination of overpiped borders and tiny flowers. Master Course and Advanced Cake Decoration Course are prerequisite to this course.*Maximum of only 5 students will be accepted for this special class. Full Participation. P10,000

September 12 (Monday) 9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (classroom B) FAVORITE PASTA DISHES by: Chef Jill Sandique, Food Consultant, Food Stylist, Blue Ribbon graduate at Peter Kump's New York Cooking School *Learn how to cook your favorite pasta dishes the easy way. Sauces to be taught in the class are the flg: Puttanesca, Carbonara, Pomodoro, Alfredo, Bolognese and Primavera plus bonus recipes. P1,700

September 13 (Tuesday) 9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (classroom B) NEW CLASS! BREAD BASKET WORKSHOP by: Chef Jill Sandique *Ham & Cheese Muffins, Grissini, French Country Bread, Walnuts Bread, Carrot Loaf, Rye Bread, Dinner Rolls and Baguette. P2,500

September 15 (Thursday) 9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (classroom A) HOLIDAY GOODIES by: Chef Jill Sandique *Buche de Noel, Madeleines, Italian Trifle, Financier, Chocolate Broas, Chocolate Almond Mousse and Macademia Sans Rival. P1,500

September 19 (Monday) 9:00 a.m. 12:00 noon (classroom A) CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY RECIPES by: Heny Sison *Dark Fruitcake, White Fruitcake, Walnut Torte, Rum-Raisin Walnut Cheesecake, Festive Cookie Bar & Prune Bar. P1,500

September 19 (Monday) 2:00 – 4:30 p.m. (classroom A) NEW CLASS! A TASTE OF LIFE RECIPES: PART 1 (Most Requested!) by: Heny Sison * Barquillos, Pulvoron, Pastillas de Leche, Pastillas de Ube and Special Buko Pie. P1,500

September 19 (Monday) 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (classroom B) FAVORITE CHINESE FASTFOOD DISHES by: Chef Katherine Sion *Sweet & Sour Pork, Pinsec Frito, Steamed Chicken w/ Mushroom & Rice, Beef Curry Rice, Beef Pares, Lechon Macau, Sautéed Vegetables w/ Oyster Sauce and Sautéed Kangkong w/ Bagoong Sauce. P2,500

September 20 (Tuesday) 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (classroom A) EDIBLE GIFTS FOR CHRISTMAS II by: Chef Jill Sandique *Angel Food Cake, Date Walnut Bars, Monkey Bread, Lemon Squares, Chocolate Pecan Cookies & Marble Pound Cake. P1,500

September 20 (Tuesday) 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (classroom B) TAPAS II by: Chef Ed Quimson *Recipes: Tigres (fried Stuffed Mussels), Arroz Abanda (Paella Rice served with Poached Seafood and Alioli Sauce), Pastel de Batut, Callos al Estilo, Natillas, Pescado al Penalli and Fabada Asturiana. Demonstration with student participation. P2,500

September 21 (Wednesday) 10:00 a.m. –4:00 p.m. (classroom A) BASIC FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS by: Glenn Remorca, floral designer * Learn the theories, styles, trends, techniques, sourcing, flower care and maintenance, basic forms, arrangements and flowers for weddings. Lecture, demonstration and hands-on production. Bring a pair of scissors.P2,500

September 22 (Thursday) 9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. (classroom A) JAPANESE RICE TOPPING by: Chef Koichi Kondo, licensed cook from Ehime, Japan and food consultant to various Japanese restaurants. Recipes: Oyako-don (Chicken & Egg on Rice), Gyudon (Beef Bowl), Tendon (Tempura Bowl), Katsu-don (Pork Cutlet Bowl), Soboro-don (Minced Chicken & Egg Bowl), Tori Teriyaki-don (Chicken Teriyaki) plus bonus recipe Chahan (Japanese Fried Rice). P1,700

September 22 (Thursday) 1:30 – 5:00 p.m. (classroom A) SUSHI CLASS by: Chef Koichi Kondo * Temaki-Zushi (Do-It Yourself Sushi Rolls), Bara-Zushi (Scattered Sushi), Inari-Zushi (Sushi Pockets), Futo-Maki Zushi (Thick-Rolled Sushi), Teka-Maki (Hand-rolled Tuna Sushi), Kappa-Maki (Sea Cucumber Sushi). P1,700

September 22 (Thursday) 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (classroom B) SIMPLY FRENCH COOKING by: Chef Jane Paredes Prepare French Bistro foods with insights on food & wine pairing.*Onion Soup Gratinee, Salad Nicoise, Bouillabaise, Lamb Chops w/ Creamed Spinach & Carrot Sauce, Braised Beef w/ Garlic Mashed Potatoes, Pots of Cream and Poach Pear w/ Bleu Cheese. P3,000

September 23 (Friday) 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (classroom A) PAELLA Y MAS (Paellas & More!) by: Chef Ed Quimson Recipes: Paella Negra (w/ squid ink), Paella ala Montana, Paella Catalan (sin Tropezone), Paella Sevillana (Vegetarian), Paella Con Setas y Mejillones, Ensalada Especial & Pescado ala Sal. Demonstration with student participation. P2,500

September 24 (Saturday) 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (classroom B) NEW CLASS! VIETNAMESE COOKING by: Chef Sam de Leoz, Food Consultant, Caterer, Food demonstrator and Instructor specializing in Basic & Classical Cookery: International & Asian Cuisine. *APPETIZERS: Banh Mi Chien Tom (Prawn toast) Chiao Gio (Vietnamese spring rolls) CONDIMENTS: Nuoc Nam, Nuoc Nam Gund (Ginger sauce)SALADS: Green Pawpaw, Chicken and Fresh Herbs Salad SOUP: Pho STARCH/NOODLES: Mi Xao Don (Bien Thuy Noodles nest) ENTRÉE: Com Tay Cam (Coriander chicken and rice) DESSERTS: Kem Dua (Coconut ice cream). Demonstration with student participation. P2,000

September 26 (Monday) 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (classroom A) NEW CLASS! HENY'S HONEY CURED HAM & ED QUIMSON'S CHORIZO by: Chef Ed Quimson.Learn the process of curing, cooking and glazing ham and let Chef Ed unveil his secret in making his famous money making chorizo recipe. Full participation. P10,000

September 26 (Monday)10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. (classroom B) PIZZA CLASS WORKSHOP By: Chef Giorgio Bucciarelli * In this class you will learn the history, concept and design of pizza making. Learn how to make pizza dough, tomato base sauce, white sauce base, preparation, setting up a pizza counter, know the ingredients and toppings. Recipes Highlight: Margherita, Napoli Classica, 4 Formaggi, Pizza Vegetariana, La Gibiana, Piccantina, 4 Stagioni, Calzone & Frutti di Mare. Demonstration with student participation. P2,500

September 29 (Thursday) 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (classroom A) NEW CLASS! PHILIPPINE SWEETS & DELICACIES PART VIII by: Chef Carol Acosta *Cassava Roll w/ Peanuts, Cassava Ube Bibingka, Lumpia Ubod w/ Creamy Sauce, Tikoy of Quezon, Inipit w/ Macapuno, Torta Española. P1,500

September 29 (Thursday) 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (classroom B) INTRODUCTION TO JAPANESE COOKING by: Chef Koichi Kondo. * Learn all-time favorites Japanese dishes applicable to home & professional cooking such as: Sushi, Sashimi, Miso Soup, Tempura, Teriyaki, Udon Noodles in Clay Pot, Chicken Teriyaki & Japanese Fried Rice. P2,500

September 30 (Friday) 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. (classroom A) NEW CLASS! THE ESSENTIAL VEGETARIAN DIETS & RECIPES by: Jacqueline Haessig Alleje. For your business or your family, learn about the different vegetarian diets, possible health benefits, and how to combine vegetarian dishes with non-vegetarian dishes for the pleasure and benefit of all. This class teaches on the background of vegetarianism and celebrated vegetarian recipes from around the world. *Thai Tofu Satay with Peanut Sauce, Cream of Cauliflower, Organic Greens with Cashews, Warm Beef Salad w/home made Boursin Cheese, Sauted Onion & Tomato Sandwich, Tofu Burger with Whole Wheat Pita Bread, Mushroom Penne Casserole, Vegetable Kebab Mediterranean Style, Low fat Carrot Cake, Sweet Potato Biscuit – Strawberry Shortcake. P2,500

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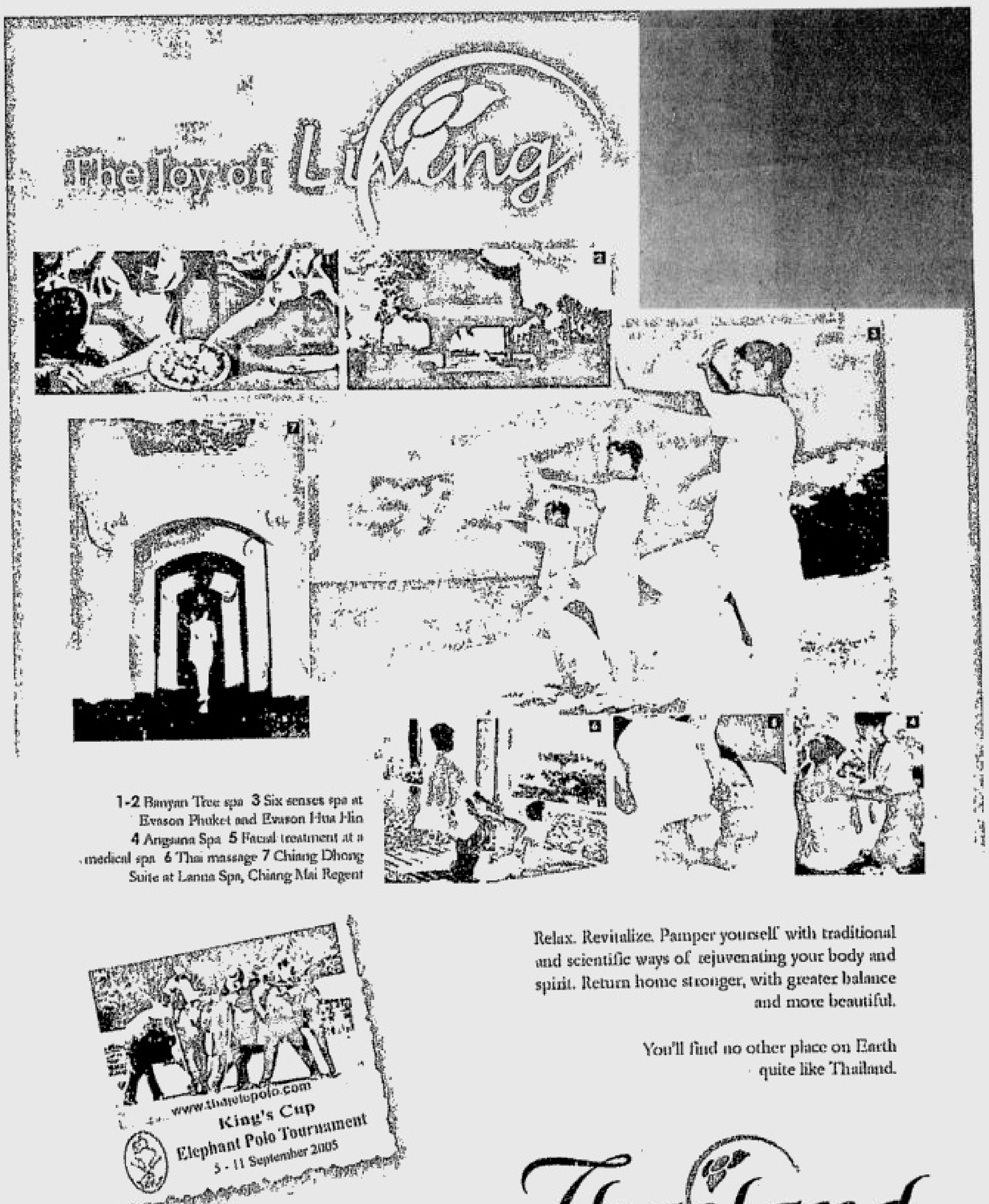

1-2 Banyan Tree spa 3 Six senses spa at Evason Phuket and Evason Hua Hin 4 Angsana Spa 5 Facial treatment at a medical spa 6 Thai massage 7 Chiang Dhong Suite at Lanna Spa, Chiang Mai Regent

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Life in watercolor

From page C1

banana plant, that works simply by being true to its subject.

Sebastian, a previous top winner, goes back to his trademark fragmented view of a lush vegetation being threatened with destruction. Mirang refurbishes his imagery of bottles and glasses and, with his hand adept in *aquarelle*, has internalized his medium.

The five runners-up are Dems de la Cruz, Alfredo Galura, Ernie Patricio, and Koreans Kim Eun-ok ("Beautiful Day" is a self-portrait) and Le Kwang Soo ("Wintertime" 2, a chilly landscape).

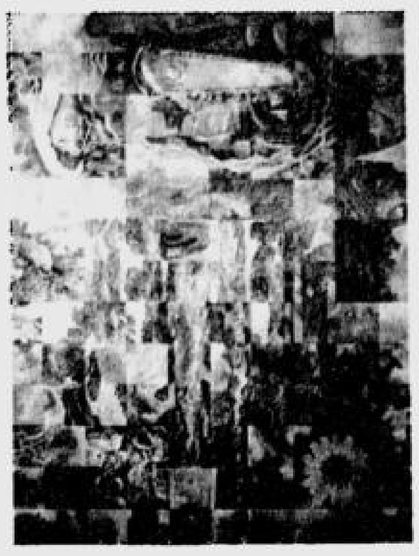
De la Cruz's "Vanishing Faith" shows a gallery of religious icons haphazardly wrapped in plastic sheets. Galura's "Orchids" does not come close to his marvelous Batanes scenery a year or two ago, but the light and shadow show is awesome.

Patricio's "Parang sa Komiks ang Buhay" is a contemplative piece merging ancient calligraphy and pop culture. The two Koreans revealed their facility at on-the-spot work.

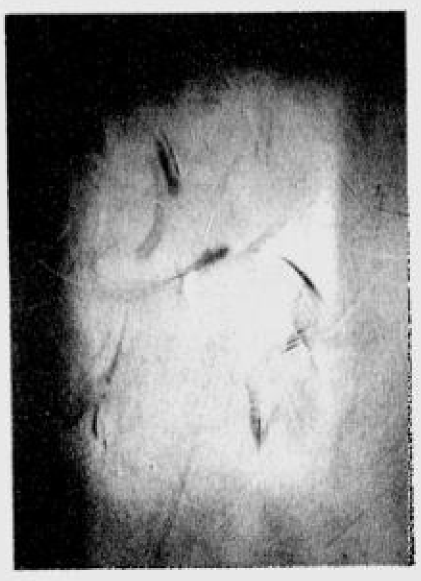
From the undisputed masters, three-time winners, we were mesmerized by Noli Manalang's guardian angels in "Fourteen Wings" and his double portrait of two women of substance, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and Susan Roces, in "Extended Glory: War of the Roses." Egai Fernandez has rooftop views of contemporary *barung-barong* with infamous quotes of the season as graffiti.

Araceli Dans has pristine-white *rosal* blooms with her trademark *callado*. Jose Cerriola has a couple of roadside *carinderias*, customers sitting on a *bangko*, looking like Christ's apostles during the Last Supper.

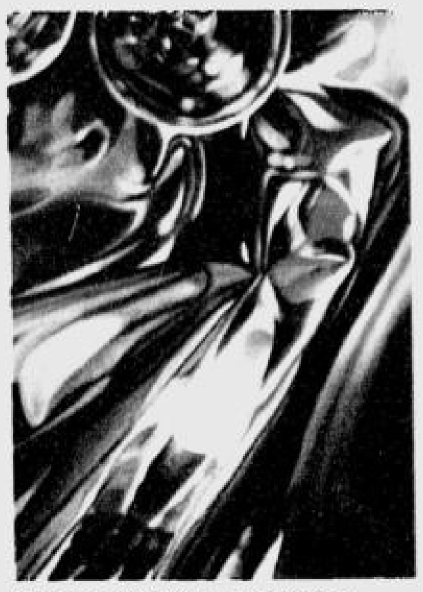
E-mail author at gdormiendo@yahoo.com.



"UNCHAINED Melody," by Aber Sebastian



"IMPETUS," by Caloy Gabuco



"REFLECTION" 8, by Christian Mirang

IAME – alternative school to UP, Ateneo and DLSU

The Makati-based International Academy of Management and Economics (IAME) has evolved into an alternative school with the influx of students from UP, Ateneo, De la Salle University, and UA and P university and convergence of lecturers from these universities in the Ph.D. in Management class.

These developments came as a surprise to IAME because it does not have any plan to attract students from these universities, said Deputy Dean J.V. Cuaresma, an Ateneo MBA graduate and formerly lecturer in the Ateneo graduate school of business.

Cuaresma said he was attracted to enroll in the Ph.D. in Management program of IAME because it is the only doctoral program in management recognized by CHED. He heard about IAME by word of mouth from its alumni and students who talk of the global quality of business education being offered and conducted at IAME.

Bobbi Makani-Lim, an M.S. Management graduate of AIM, entrepreneur and part-time lecturer at the Ateneo graduate school of business, said she enrolled in the IAME Ph.D. in Management program because of its globally-oriented curriculum and the high level of class presentations and discussions which she found self-fulfilling and satisfying at the end of the week-end sessions.

Felix Lim, a DBA graduate and part-time lecturer of DLSU, finds the topics of presentations world class and helpful to his job as country manager, regional manager, and global quality manager of a US multinational corporation based in Silicon Valley in California.

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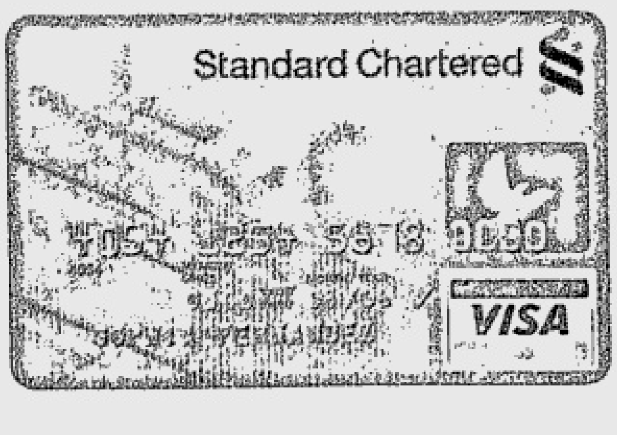

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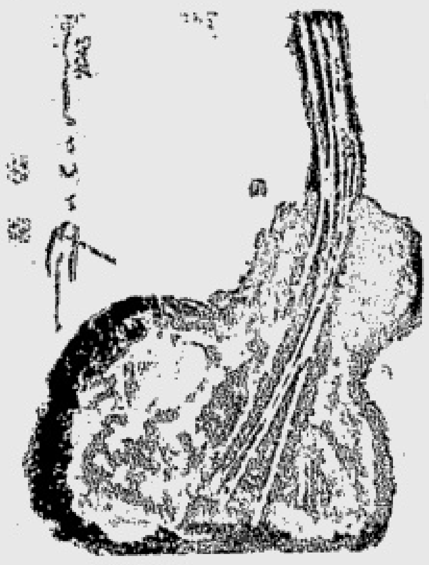
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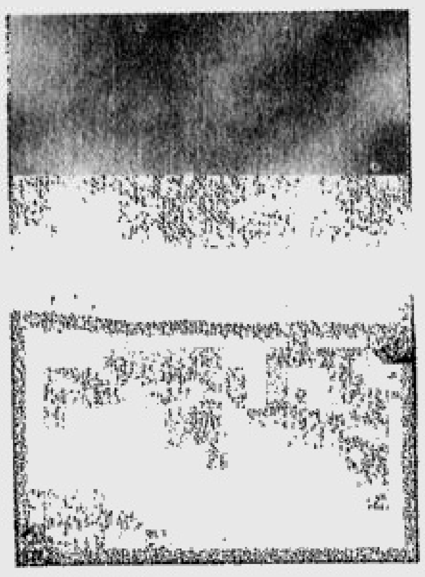
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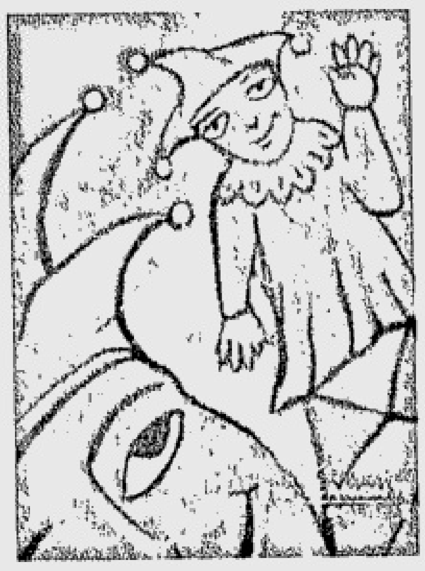
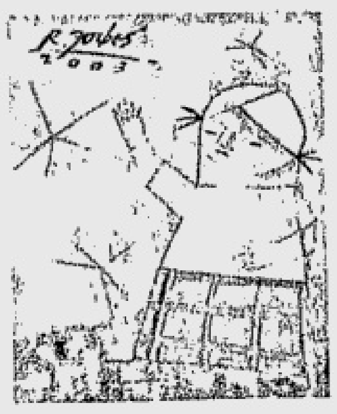
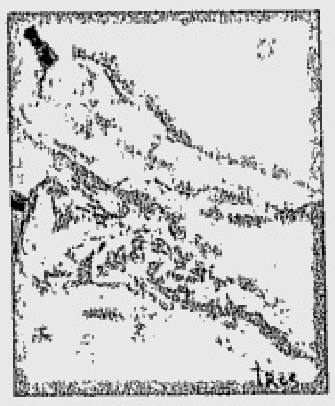
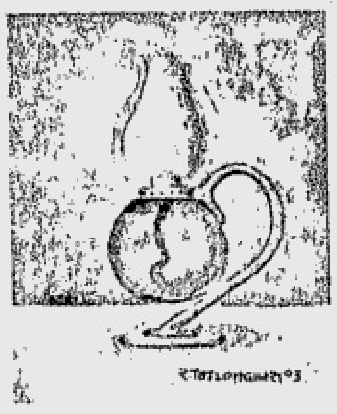

BIN Samonte


ROMEO Forbes


TRES Roman


REX Tatlonghari

'Small World' at G9

ANTON Balao, Yveese Belen, Romeo Forbes, Tres Roman, Bin and Jef Samonte, Elios Santos, and Rex Tatlonghari present their miniature works in "Small World" at Gallery Nine, 4/L Artwalk of Megamall, Aug. 26-Sept. 5.

The eight artists give viewers a chance to own their pieces at less prohibitive prices.

From Balao's renditions of string instruments via intense pallete-knife strokes, to Belen's and Forbes' color-rich fusion of naïf and naïve, Roman's romance with horticulture and passion for the culinary, Bin Samonte's yin with his jesters and puppetry to the yang of brother Jef's nostalgic rural children, to Santos' surreal spirituality and Tatlonghari's earthy contrasts, the exhibit is sure to cater to diverse preferences.

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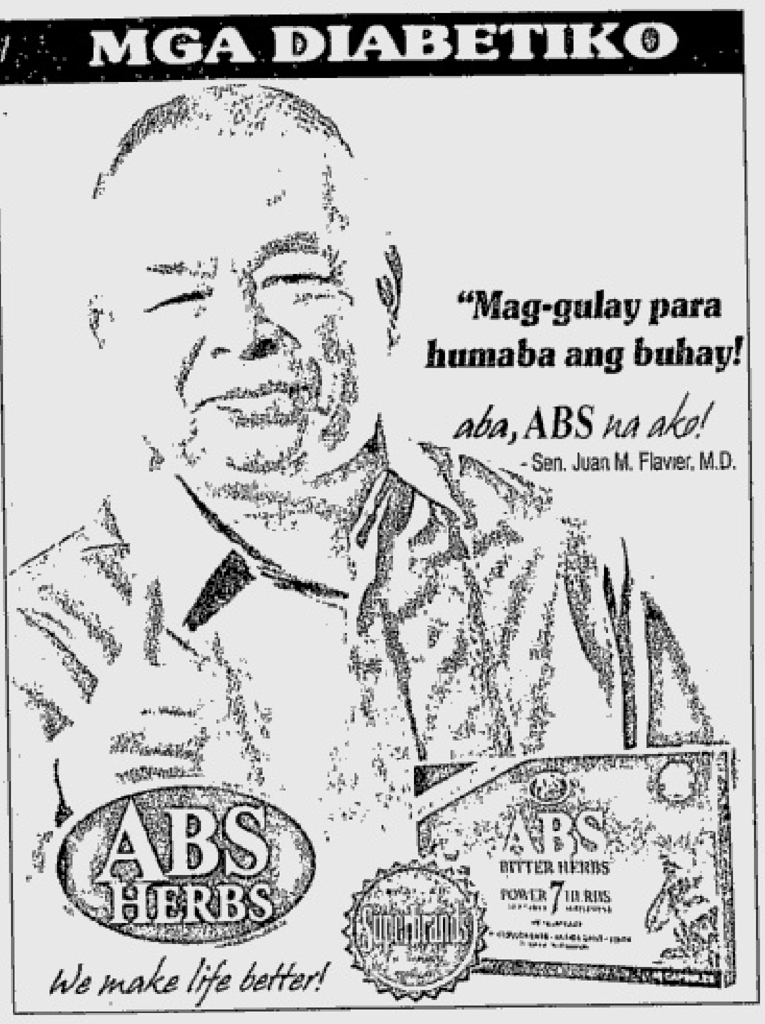
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'Once On This Island' goes to Cebu

RAKI Vega and Jeffrey Hidalgo star in "Once On This Island."

ACTOR'S Actors Inc. (AAI) and Little Boy Productions bring the Laurence Olivier-winning musical "Once on This Island" to Cebu on Aug. 27 at 8 p.m. at the SM Theater 1, SM City-Cebu. It will feature hometown girl and ABS-CBN's "Born Diva" grand winner, Raki Vega, playing the lead role of Ti Moune.

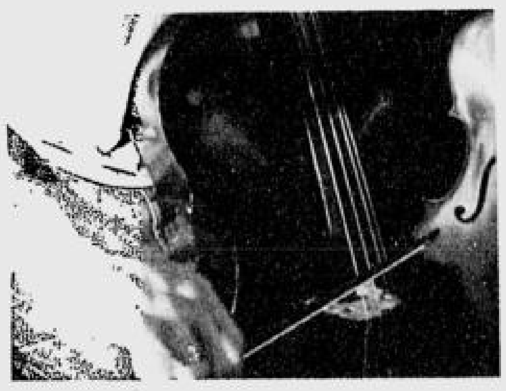
Making up the impressive cast of the well-loved musical are Bituin Escalante, Jett Pangan, Jeffrey Hidalgo, Michael de Mesa, Menchu Lauchengco-Yulo, Michael Williams, May Bayot, Bodjie Pascua, Cathy Azanza and Gala Sanchez.

Based on "The Little Mermaid" by Hans Christian Andersen, the all-singing, all-dancing musical is composed by the Tony Award-winning team of Stephen Flaherty (music) and Lynn Ahrens (book and lyrics).

Bart Guingona is director while Denisa Reyes is choreographer.

"We are delighted with the interest that a lot of people have shown towards our work, asking if we can bring this production to other key cities in the country," said Guingona. "This Cebu tour is hopefully the start of that."

Tickets are available at SM Cinema office, 032-231 3876. Also call 0917-815 5794.



Cellists go heavy metal

"BACH to Metallica: An All-Cello Concert" will feature cellists from the Philippine Philharmonic, San Miguel Philharmonic and Metro Manila Community Orchestras performing Bach, Scarlatti, Vivaldi, Villalobos and Metallica, on Aug. 28, 4 p.m., at the Philam Theater,.

To be held in the memory of Vicente "Tiking" Lopez Jr., the concert will be joined by visiting Korean cellists Ena Song and Heejung Lee. It will be complemented by an art exhibit by Galerie Joaquin featuring artists Jerry Morada, Vincent de Pio, Gino Tioseco, Andi Cubi, Rellie Liwag and others.

Proceeds of the concert shall benefit the Cello Guild of the Philippines, which promotes the appreciation and performance of the instrument, and the expansion of the St. Francis High School in Vallehermoso, Negros Oriental.

Tickets are at P1,000, P500 and P300, with a 50-percent discount for students and seniors. Call 7261297 or 09189468252. E-mail sinagtala @skyinet.net or visit www.sinagtala.net

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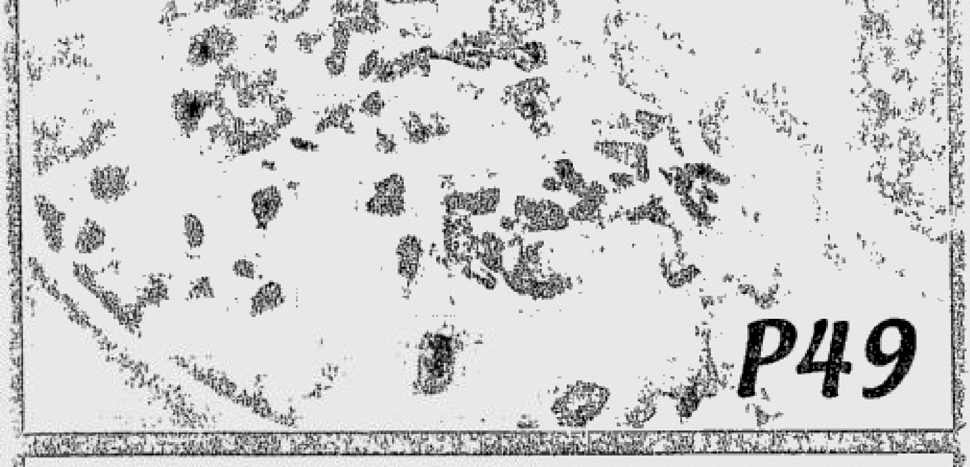

P49

2 Cheesy Chili Fries
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3 Fried Chicken Sandwich
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4 Roast Chicken Sandwich
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5 Tenders & Spaghetti
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6 Jumbo Chili Dog
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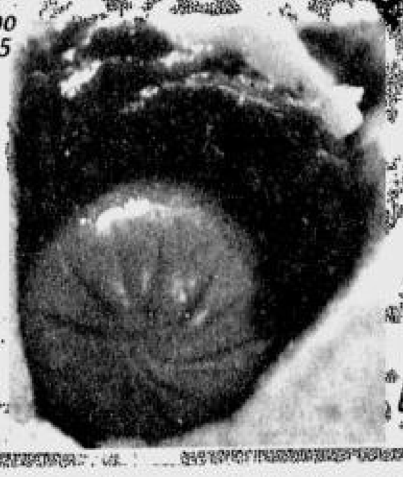

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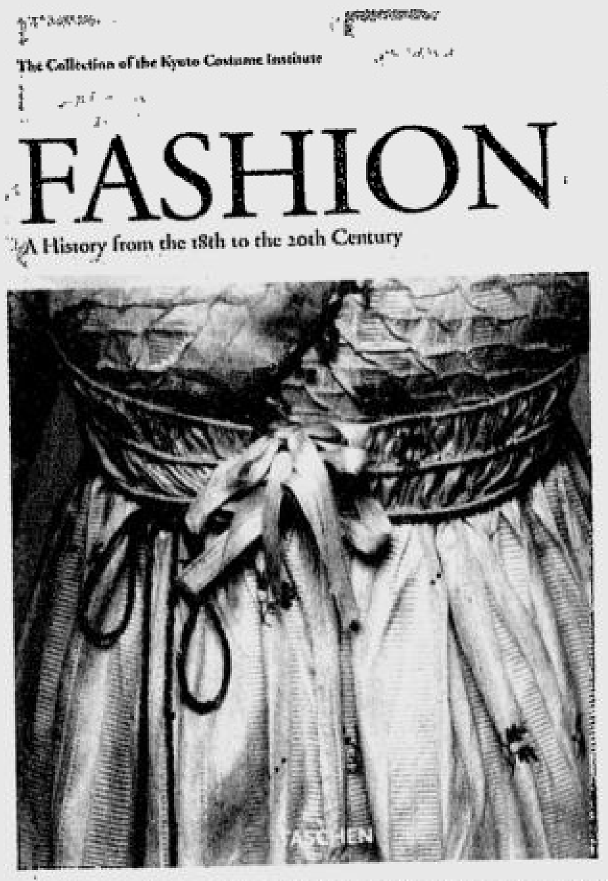
The Collection of the Kyoto Costume Institute
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A History from the 18th to the 20th Century
TASCHEN

August reads

LEARN about the clothing trends over the last three centuries in "Fashion: A History from the 18th to the 20th Century" by the Kyoto Costume Institute.

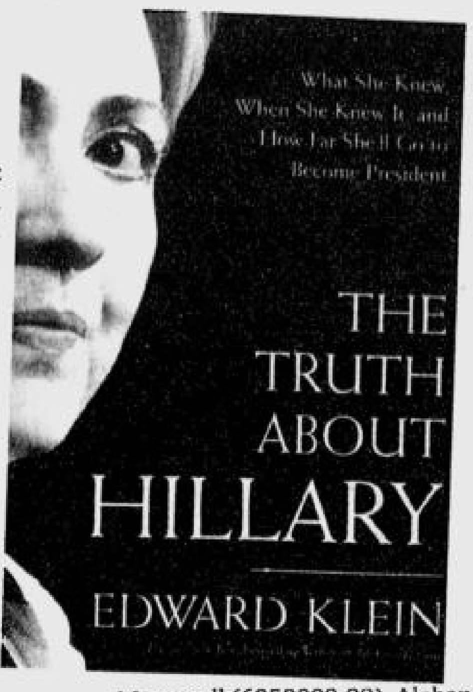
"The Pillsbury Complete Cookbook" is the ultimate kitchen companion, featuring nearly 1,000 recipes that have been triple-tested in Pillsbury's famous kitchens.

Bart McDowell's "Inside the Vatican" is a lavishly illustrated guide through the Vatican that captures the people, treasures and inner workings of the center of the Roman Catholic Church.

Know more about how and why Cardinal Ratzinger was elected as the new Pope, how the papacy is likely to affect him, and what all of this means for the future of the Catholic Church throughout the world in "The Rise Of Benedict XVI" by John L. Allen Jr.

V.S. Naipaul's "Magic Seeds" revolves around Willie Chandran, a man who has allowed one identity after another to be thrust upon him, as if he could truly know himself by becoming what others imagine him to be.

Edward Klein's "The Truth about Hilary" exposes the secrets of one of the most polarizing figures in American politics, Hilary Rodham Clinton. "Diana: The Last Word," is a revelatory account of the last four years of Princess Diana's life by one of her most trusted confidantes, Simone Simmons.


What She Knew, When She Knew It, and How Far She'll Go to Become President
THE TRUTH ABOUT HILLARY
EDWARD KLEIN

The books are available at PowerBooks with branches at Greenbelt 4 (tel. 7576428 to 29), Megamall (6352898-99), Alabang Town Center (8505662-63), Glorietta (7527075), Shangri-La (6380023/25) and Robinson's Place Ermita (5233334/5243448).

F. Sionil José tackles 400 years of 'Don Quixote'

NATIONAL Artist F. Sionil José will deliver the lecture, "A Filipino Writer's Quixotic Adventure," on Aug. 25, 6 p.m., at the Conference Hall of Central Library Building of University of Santo Tomas, España, Manila.

Organized by the Instituto Cervantes and UST Central Library, the talk will end the lecture series to mark the 400th anniversary of Miguel de Cervantes's novel "El Ingenioso Hidalgo Don Quixote de la Mancha," by critical consensus the first and greatest modern novel.

José, whose earliest readings included "Don Quixote," will talk about his experiences as a reader of the Cervantes novel and the influence it has had on his works and those of other Filipino writers.

To give the response is Lito B. Zulueta, INQUIRER arts and culture editor, and head of National Committee on Literary Arts of National Commission for Culture and the Arts.

The public is invited to the lecture as well as the exhibit in the lobby of UST Library titled "400 Years of Don Quixote and the UST Library," featuring the touring exhibit by Instituto Cervantes of the history of the novel as well as old editions of the novel in UST Library holdings, the oldest of which is the 1780 Madrid edition.

The exhibit also marks the 400th anniversary of the library, which started as a donation in 1605, the same year "Don Quixote" was published, by Fray Miguel de Benavides, the third archbishop of Manila. The book donation led to the founding of UST in 1611.

Call 7313034.

F. SIONIL Jose

Fil-Am fictionist in UST forum

THE COMMITTEE on Literature of the University of Santo Tomas will feature Filipino-American writer R. Zamora Linmark in the lecture "You: A Filipino Writer's Almanac," on Aug 25, 3 p.m., at the audio-visual room of Faculty of Arts and Letters, St. Raymund's Bldg., UST.

Linmark will tackle the creative process that went into the writing of his acclaimed novel "Rolling the R's," published by Kaya Press in New York, which is now on its fifth printing and a required reading in many Asian-American courses in the United States.

A Fullbright scholar, Linmark has just finished work on his second novel, "Leche." His poetry collection, "Prime Time Apparitions," has been released by Hanging Loose Press of New York.

The public is invited.

Librarians as leaders

WHY DO librarians need to be leaders? How can librarians develop their leadership skills? Can librarians working alone be considered leaders?

These questions, and more, will be answered in "The Leadership Challenge," a forum on Aug. 31, 10 a.m.-12 noon.

Dennis S. Ycasiano, the speaker, has developed and implemented training programs for Citibank, Pepsi Cola, Shell, Colgate and other companies in Southeast Asia.

The occasion and venue for the forum will be the 26th Manila International Book Fair at World Trade Center at Roxas Boulevard, Manila, Aug. 31-Sept. 4.

Registration fee is P50 for members and students, and P100 for non-members, inclusive of certificates and handouts. Call 4266001 ext. 5805, 4266001 ext. 5802 or 9818500 ext. 2869.

Randy David in language forum

RENOWNED sociologist and columnist Randy David will talk on the topic "Ang Wikang Filipino at Kamalayang Filipino," at University of Santo Tomas today.

Organized by UST Center for Creative Writing and Studies in line with the celebration of "Buwan ng Wika," the talk will be at 11 a.m. at the audio-visual room of St. Raymund's Building, and will focus on the Filipino consciousness and Filipino language as a tool for creative expression and studies.

David is a professor of sociology at University of the Philippines-Diliman, was founding director of the Third World Studies Center and former editor of its journal, Kasarinlan. He trained in sociology at UP and University of Manchester in England.

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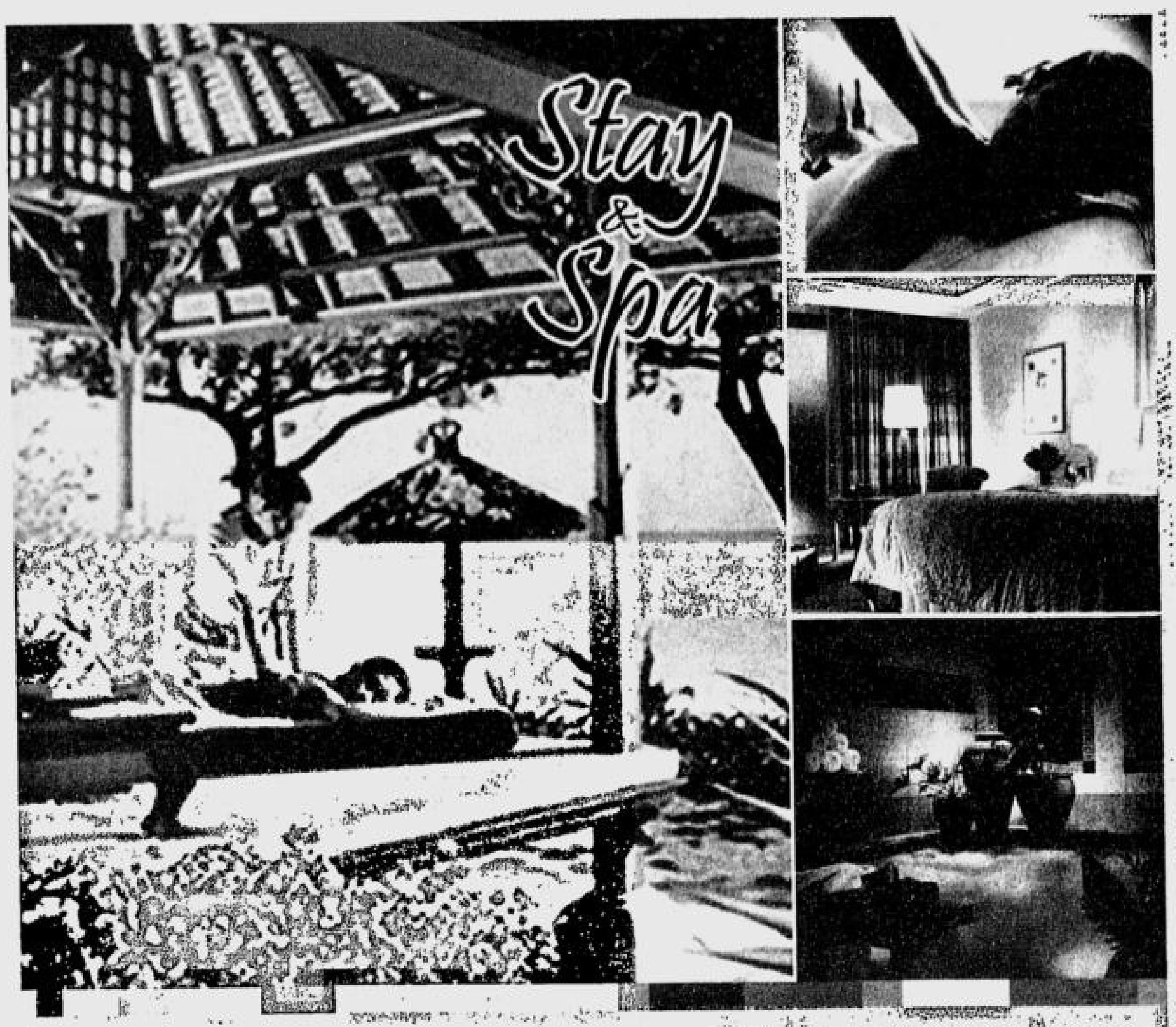

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Forum and exhibit on RP-Japan relations at UP Vargas Museum

THE UP Diliman's Center for International Studies and Jorge B. Vargas Museum, and the Japan Foundation Manila will hold the public lecture, "Six Decades after the End of WWI: Filipinos in Japan, Japanese in the Philippines, Intersecting Cultures, Intersecting Histories," on Aug. 24, 2 p.m., at the Vargas Museum.

There will also be a one-month photograph exhibition on Pinoy Gai-jin/Nikkei-jin starting Aug. 24. The activities seek to make Filipinos and the Japanese reflect on Filipino-Japanese relations 60 years after the end of the war.

Three writer-scholars will deliver the lecture. Ricardo José, professor of history at UP Diliman, will provide a historical perspective of the Filipinos in Japan and the Japanese in the Philippines.

Ma. Luisa Mabunay, associate professor of social sciences at UP Visayas, who has long been engaged in the documentation of the Japanese presence on the island of Panay, will speak on "Panay Sources of Today's Nikke-jin in Japan."

R. Zamora Linmark, a Filipino-American creative writer who was born in the Philippines and educated in the United States and is a Fulbright lecturer/researcher in the Philippines, will read excerpts from his diary, "My Tokyo Notebook: Meeting Pinoys in Japan," detailing his cultural and literary experiences in Japan as well as his interviews with Filipinos, migrant workers and permanent residents there.

The exhibit will feature pictures from the collections of Linmark and Mabunay.

Call 4267573 or 9205301 loc. 6930, or e-mail cis@up.edu.ph.

Tour of university museums

ON AUG. 27, Museum Studies professor Ma. Victoria T. Herrera collaborates with the Museum Foundation of the Philippines on a tour of university museums in Metro Manila: UP Jorge B. Vargas Museum, Ateneo Art Gallery, University of Santo Tomas Museum of Arts and Sciences, and Museum of De La Salle.

These institutions showcase important collections in Philippine visual arts donated by collectors such as the late Jorge B. Vargas, Fernando Zobel and Doreen and Wili Fernandez.

The fee, which includes transportation, lunch and handouts, is P800 for Museum Foundation members, and P1,000 for non-members. Call 4042685.

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20 Winners of Nokia 9500 Cellphones
20 Winners of Sony DVD Players

Grand Prize Winner of P2.85 Million
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Winner of a Sony Videocam
Beltran, Jemelleen Rose C. - Sto. Cristo

Winner of a Samsung Home Entertainment Package
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5. **Octaviano, Gil Joseph III F.**
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6. **Exotic Islands, Inc.**
Cebu - SM City
7. **Yu, Sergio Chua**
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9. **Chua, Bun Hiock &/or Chua, Josefina Li**
Araneta Avenue
10. **Healthy Ways Clinic**
Ermita
11. **Sabanal, Irene Bascal**
Cebu - Mandaue
12. **Polytron Trading**
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13. **Lee, Chester Go Tan**
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